Inside: Funny Future Tellers ★ Adorable Puppy Posters

May/June 2016

American Girl™

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Room Crafts!

11 DIY projects

- All-about-you **quizzes**
- Summertime **party** ideas

Yikes!
Scary stories with happy endings

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Kitson Jazynka

MARKETING MANAGER
D'Ann Jackson
SENIOR CIRCULATION COORDINATOR
Heather Hempel Gomez

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Alex Belmonte, Patti Kelley Criswell, Susan Dopkins,
Meagan Eggers, Joe Hinrichs,
Kyla Newton, Jolene Schulz, Mark Speltz,
Kim Sphar, Ann Marie Yeap

Cover Credits: Wardrobe styling: Aubre Andrus, Mary Richards Beaumont
Hair: Susie Lee

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Volume 24, Number 3

Contents

Follow Your Inner Star®

Girls Express **2**

Contest **8**
Sweet Sailboats

Sweet Sailboats, page 8

Speak Up! **10**
Favorite Foods

According to Aggie ... **12**
Bubble Trouble

Speak Up or Steer Clear? **14**

Art(full) Room **17**

Art(full) Room

Art(full) Room, page 17

Hello, Summer! **22**

Sunny Style **26**

Yikes! **28**

The Secret Sleepover **32**

The Secret Sleepover, page 32

Summer Carnival **40**

Mini Mag **41**

Posters **43**

Help! **45**

Behind the Scenes ... **48**

Plus AG's Future Tellers!

SCIENCE!
Awesome Awards
American Girl

Cover photo: Steven Talley

Safety first!
Some of our projects and activities require an adult's help.
When you see this symbol, be sure to ask an adult to work with you.

Girls EXPRESS™

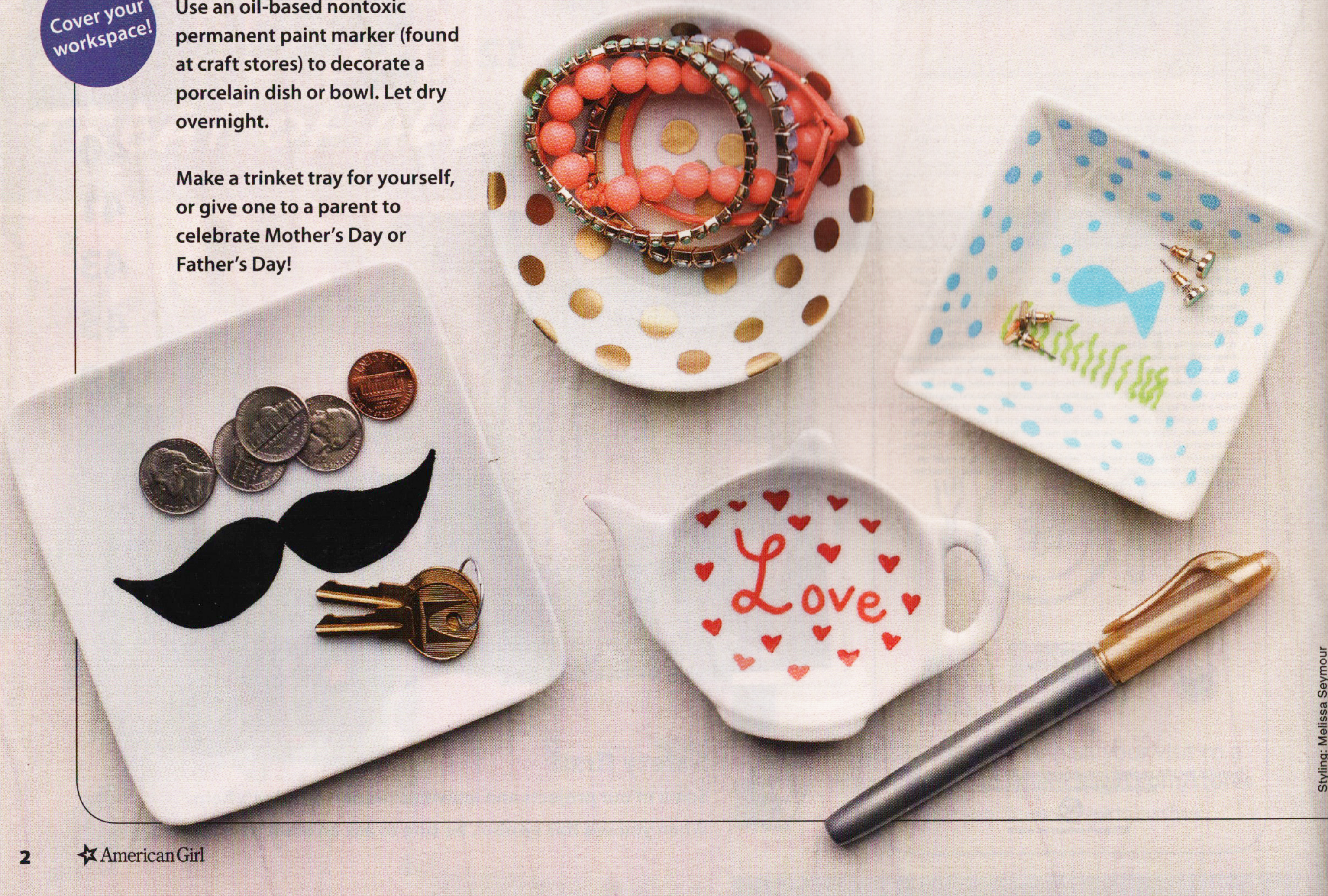
Trinket Trays

Make a decorated dish to hold jewelry, keys, or other small objects.

Cover your workspace!

Use an oil-based nontoxic permanent paint marker (found at craft stores) to decorate a porcelain dish or bowl. Let dry overnight.

Make a trinket tray for yourself, or give one to a parent to celebrate Mother's Day or Father's Day!



Styling: Melissa Seymour

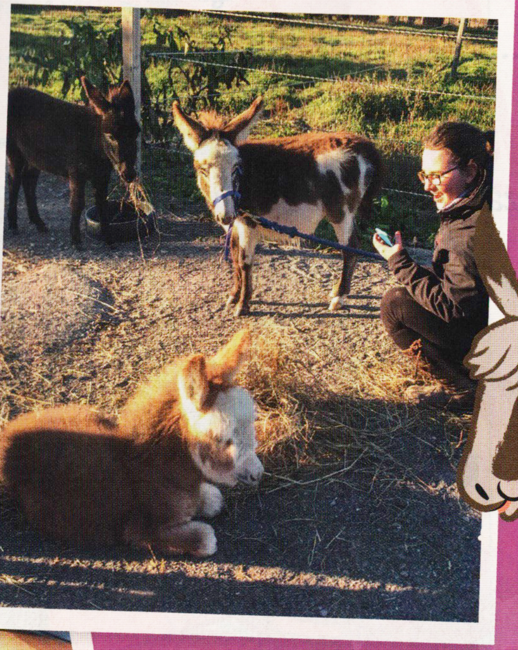
Shining Star

Sarah Q. and her little brother, Liam, love animals. "That's why we are so close," she says. Together, they play with their dog, Cooper. Liam also likes to help squirt Sarah's horse, Monkey, with a hose.

"He laughs a lot when the animals are around," she says. Last summer, the 13-year-old worked at a summer camp. The camp pairs up therapy animals and kids with special needs like Liam, who has Down syndrome. Therapy animals often provide comfort to kids like Liam. "Petting, brushing and leading a therapy animal around makes Liam feel good," she says. Sarah loved the camp so much that she started researching therapy animals so she could train her own. She saved more than $1,000 babysitting and working at the barn. Then she convinced her parents to let her bring home a special miniature donkey.

"As soon as I saw Jupiter, I knew he was the one," she says. "He was so cute and gentle." Now Sarah is training Jupiter to do tasks he'll need to perform as a therapy animal, like wearing a halter, standing quietly for brushing, and ignoring noise.

Sometimes he's stubborn (he is a donkey, after all). "But he's so sweet and gentle," she says. "He loves it when the kids rub his ears."



You can shine, too.
Do you love helping animals and kids? Ask a parent if you can learn more about volunteering with a therapy animal program.

Mini Quiz

Sign Me Up!

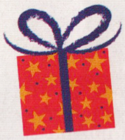
Which summer class should you take?

1. You love listening to

- **a.** stories about animals saving people.
- **b.** music with a good beat.
- **c.** audiobooks.

2. How would you wrap a present for a friend?

a.



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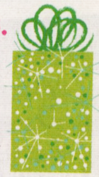

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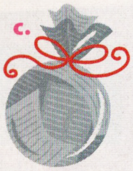
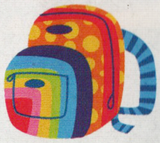


3. Your parents might describe you as

- **a.** outdoorsy, curious, and an animal-lover.
- **b.** silly, fun, and athletic.
- **c.** smart, dedicated, and a little shy.

4. Which bag would you choose?

a.



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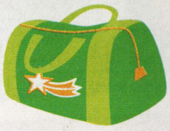

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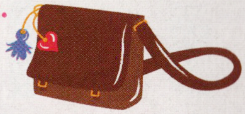


5. What do you do when you're feeling anxious?

- **a.** Cuddle a pet
- **b.** Go for a walk
- **c.** Work on a craft

Answers

Mostly a's

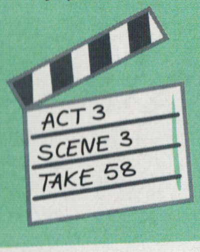
You'd love an astronomy class!

Mostly b's

You should try a hip-hop dance class!

Mostly c's

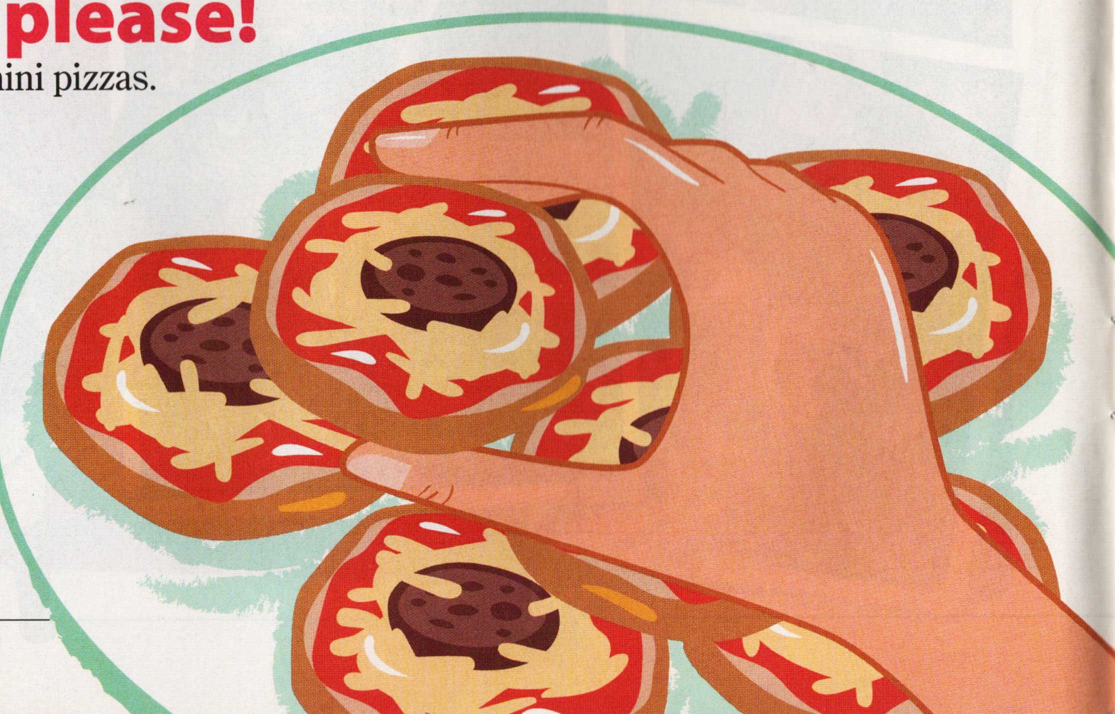
You'd enjoy a filmmaking class!



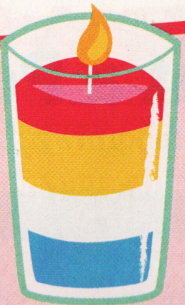
Cheese, please!

You'll love these mini pizzas.

Spread pizza sauce on a water cracker. Sprinkle cheese and pepperoni on top of the sauce. Ask a parent to microwave your mini pizza for 15 seconds. Let it cool, and then enjoy!



True Story



Asia started selling candles when she was five years old!

Dear American Girl,

I'm all about business. When I was five years old I started selling candles that I make myself. My dad taught me how to make them. We melt wax in a pot, then add dye, then pour it into a jar with a wick. Sometimes I add scents like sweet mango and strawberry shortcake. My dad taught me all about how to talk to people, make a sales pitch, and negotiate. He also taught me about the importance of eye contact and having a firm handshake.

Along the way I've met kids who come from difficult backgrounds. I realized I had the skills to help them change their lives by teaching them to make and sell candles. I started a website and sometimes, we sell 400 candles in a month. I have also started a program where I hold leadership workshops for kids in my city who want to become what I call "youth-preneurs."

When I grow up, I want to be a lawyer, a mayor and hopefully president of the US one day. But what I like doing most of all is helping children. Accomplishing what I have makes me feel great and happy. And I haven't even finished yet.

Sincerely,

Asia R.

Age 13, Michigan

Illustrations: Tracey Wood

AG Poll

Answer these questions, and then turn the page to see how your answers compare to those of other AG readers.

How do you stay in touch with faraway friends?

- Letters
- Emails
- Video chat
- Texting

Which magazine would you like to work for?

- A girls' magazine
- A pet magazine
- A travel magazine
- A fashion magazine

If you could paint your bedroom a new color, what would you choose?

- Red
- Purple
- Pink
- Blue

AG Poll

What girls told us online

How do you stay in touch with faraway friends?

31% Texting

29% Letters

20% Emails

20% Video Chat

Which magazine would you like to work for?

40% Fashion Magazine

33% Girls' Magazine

20% Pet Magazine

7% Travel Magazine

If you could paint your bedroom a new color, what would you choose?

39% Blue

22% Pink

20% Purple

19% Red

To answer our weekly
poll question, go to
americangirl.com/playmagazine

Meet a Pet!

Valerie K. of Indiana tells us about her cat with a big personality.

Valerie K.

Age 10, Indiana

What's your pet's name?

His name is Poly. My friend's cat had kittens. Two of the kittens were twins, and they were named Roly and Poly. I took Poly, and my friend kept Roly.

Describe the day that you got your pet.

On my ninth birthday, we were all eating cake and my mom announced that I could have a kitten. I was so surprised, I spat out my cake!

Describe a time when your pet was naughty.

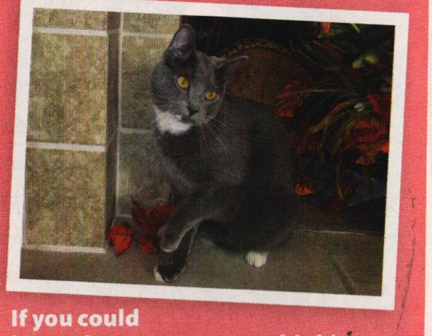
One time, I built a tower of blocks. I went to get my camera to take a picture of the tower, but Poly knocked it down.

Describe a time your pet made you laugh.

On Christmas Eve, I went to check on all of the decorations and saw that Poly had climbed all the way to the top of our Christmas tree!

Does your pet know any tricks?

Sometimes I toss a ball at the wall and Poly catches it mid-air.



If you could hear what your pet was thinking, what would it be?

Even though he doesn't talk, his worst quality is arrogance. He would probably be thinking about how sharp his claws are.

How would you describe your pet in three words?

Loyal, self-centered, caring.

Can you name a time when your pet was really smart?

He figured out that his nose is cold, so he puts his nose on my face to wake me up in the morning.

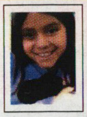
Tell us about your pet's favorite spot in your home:

He loves my chair with wheels. It makes him feel sneaky.

AG Art Gallery

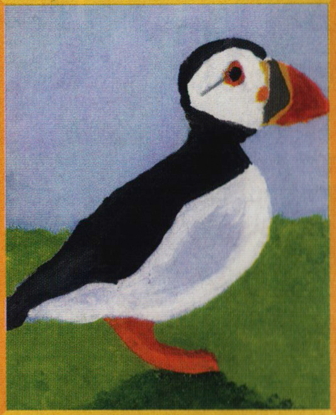
Our readers love drawing cute animals.

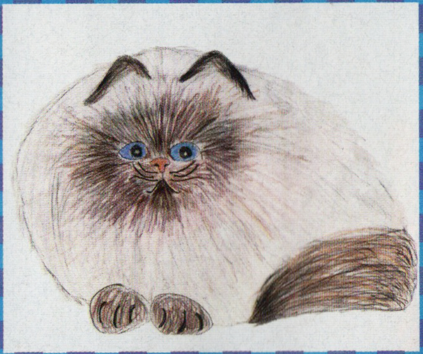
Help us fill our gallery! Send color copies of your **original artwork** or **photos** to the address below. Sorry, we can't return entries.



Gabriela S.

Age 11, Rhode Island



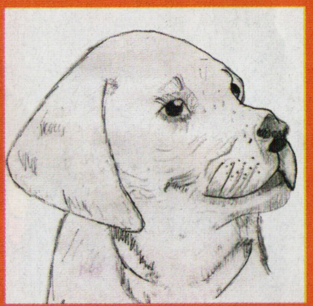


Maya W.

Age 12, New Jersey

Gwendolyn H.

Age 11, Massachusetts



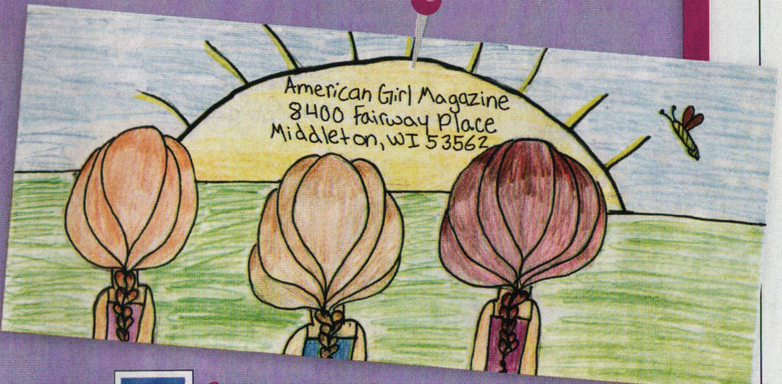
Write to Us

Be sure to include your

- **First and last name**
- **Address and phone number**
- **Birth date, including year**
- **School photo or other portrait**
- **Parent's signature**

Send us a cool envelope! **Print our address neatly on the front and your return address on the back.**

We can't print every letter, but we read everything you send to us. Hope to hear from you soon!



Envelope art by

Lucy M.

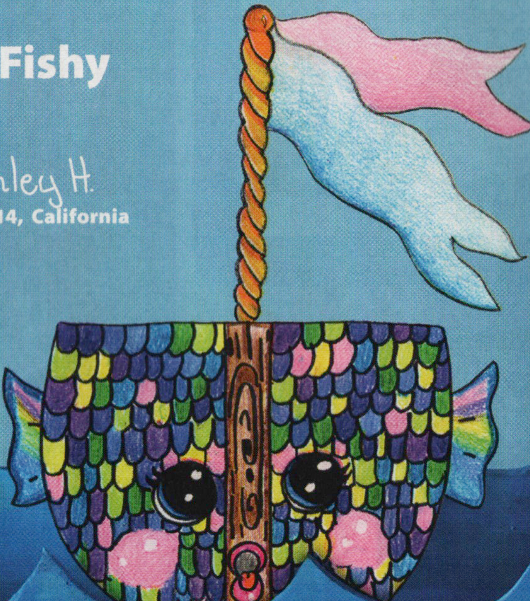
Age 10, Maryland

Sweet Sailboats

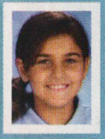
These bright boats were created by girls like you.

Seems Fishy

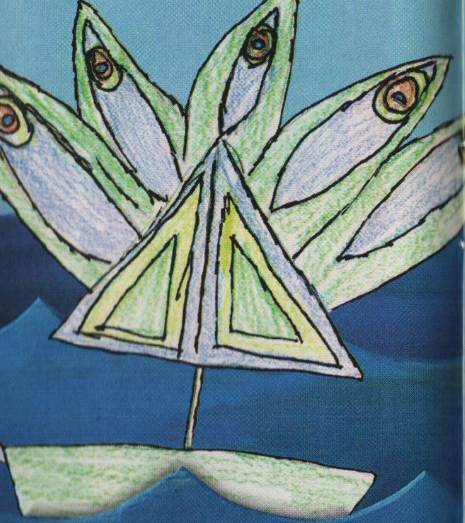
Ashley H.
Age 14, California

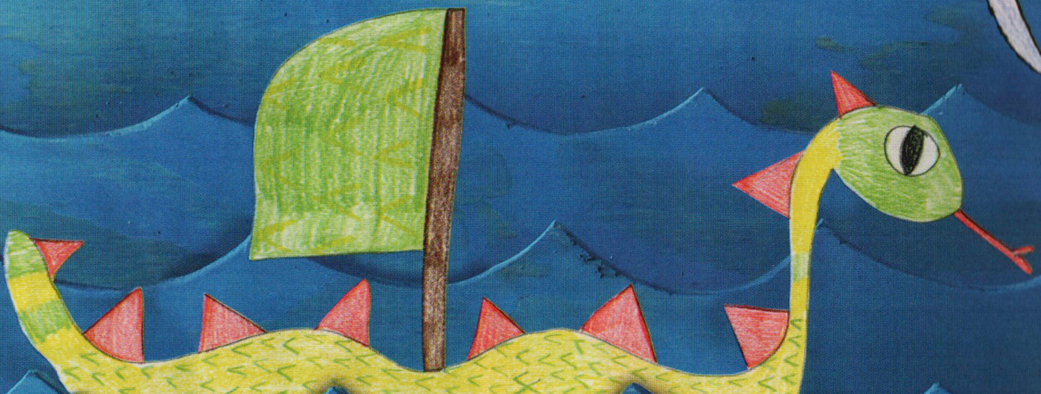


Pretty Peacock



Sofia C.
Age 9, Florida



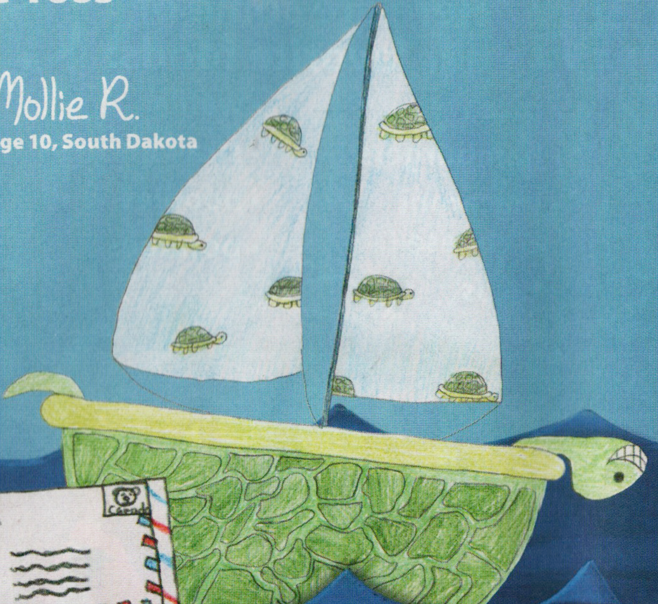


S.S. Serpent

Rebekah D.
Age 11, Oregon

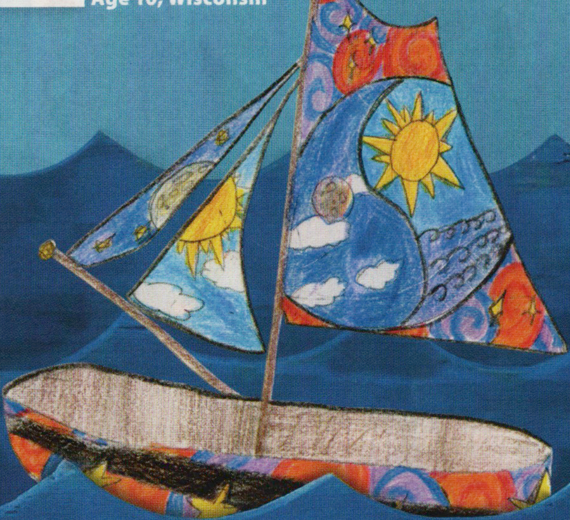
Turtle Toss

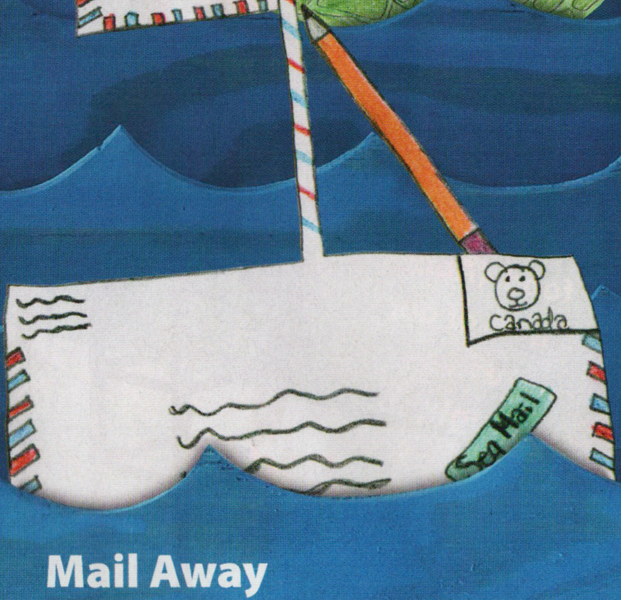
Mollie R.
Age 10, South Dakota



Sunny Sails

Avery F.
Age 10, Wisconsin





Mail Away

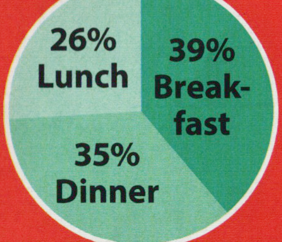
Helen B.
Age 11, Canada

New Contest: Pie

Create a new pie flavor! Would you like to try a slice of raspberry-pumpkin, chocolate-apple, or strawberry-mango pie? Design a slice of pie that you'd love to eat. We can't wait to see what you come up with! To send us your original pie drawing, follow the instructions on page 7. Postmark deadline: June 10, 2016. Winners will appear in the November/December 2016 issue. Sorry—we can't return entries. ★

Favorite FO

Which meal do you like best?



Menu

Here are some of your favorite foods:

- pizza
- hamburgers
- macaroni & cheese
- tacos
- waffles
- strawberries
- noodles
- potatoes

Most of you enjoy **baking** the most.

Most of you think **pizza** is the best sleepover food. (About 80% of our readers thought so.)

Dessert Menu

Which dessert do you like best?

44%	Ice cream
20%	Cupcakes
17%	Cookies
15%	Pie
4%	Pudding

ODS

You would love to own a:

31% Diner 23% Bakery 15% Cafe
13% Fast Food Place 10% Cupcake Shop 8% Candy Shop

What's the best after-school snack?

36%	Fruit
36%	Crackers
22%	Granola bar
3%	Yogurt
3%	Veggies

Illustrations: Paige Pooler

Coming Up:
Movies

1. Which kind of movies do you like best?
- **a.** Scary
- **b.** Funny
- **c.** Inspiring
- **d.** Adventurous
- **e.** Sad
- **f.** Other (explain)

2. Do you watch the previews or fast-forward through them?

3. What device do you watch movies on?
- **a.** TV
- **b.** Phone
- **c.** Tablet
- **d.** Computer/ Laptop

4. Where would you rather watch a movie?
- **a.** At home
- **b.** At a movie theater

5. What's the best movie treat?
- **a.** Candy
- **b.** Giant pretzel
- **c.** Popcorn
- **d.** Slushy drink
- **e.** Soda
- **f.** Other (explain)

6. Have you ever been to a midnight movie premiere? YES or NO

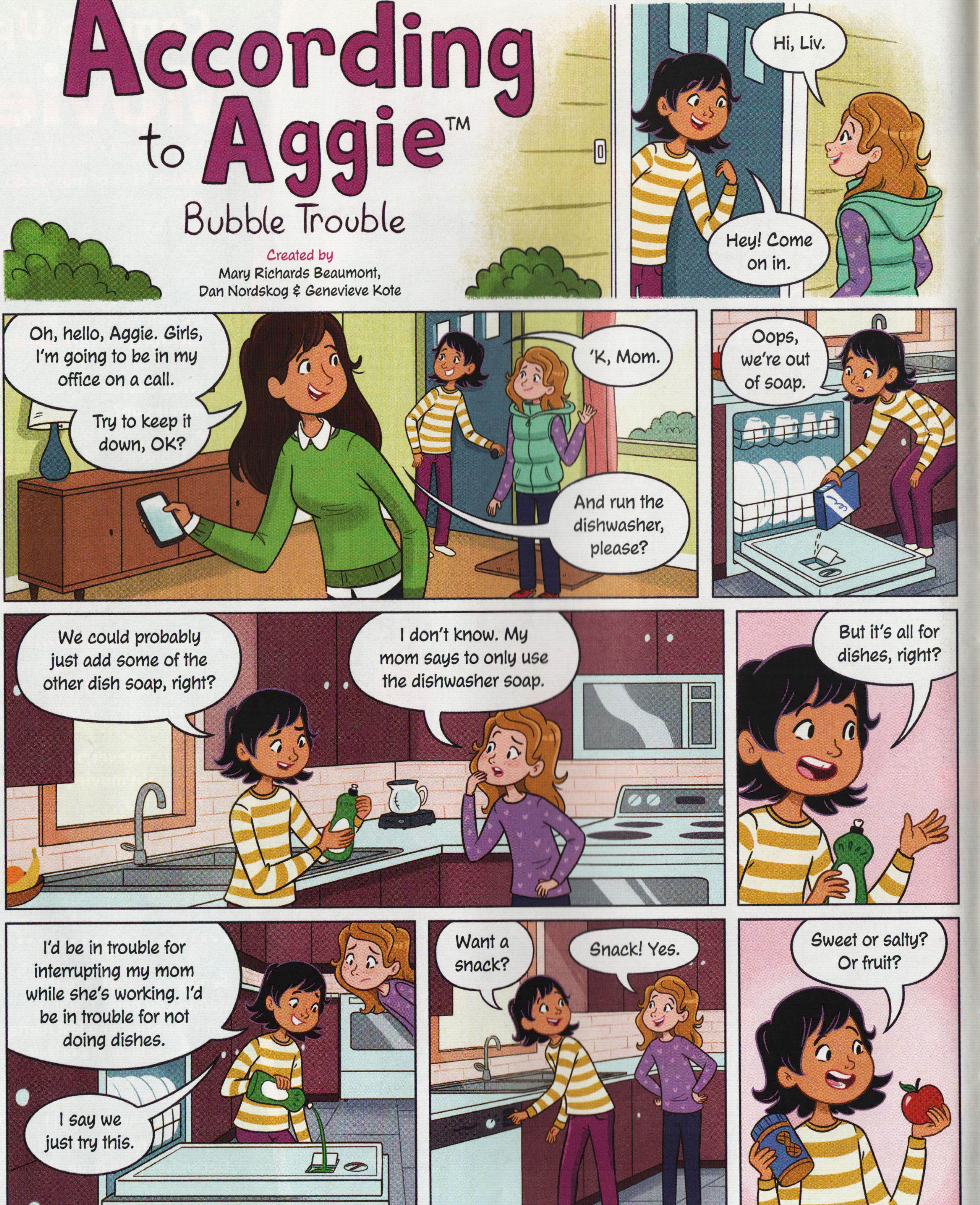
7. Create a movie ticket. What's the name of the movie you'd star in?

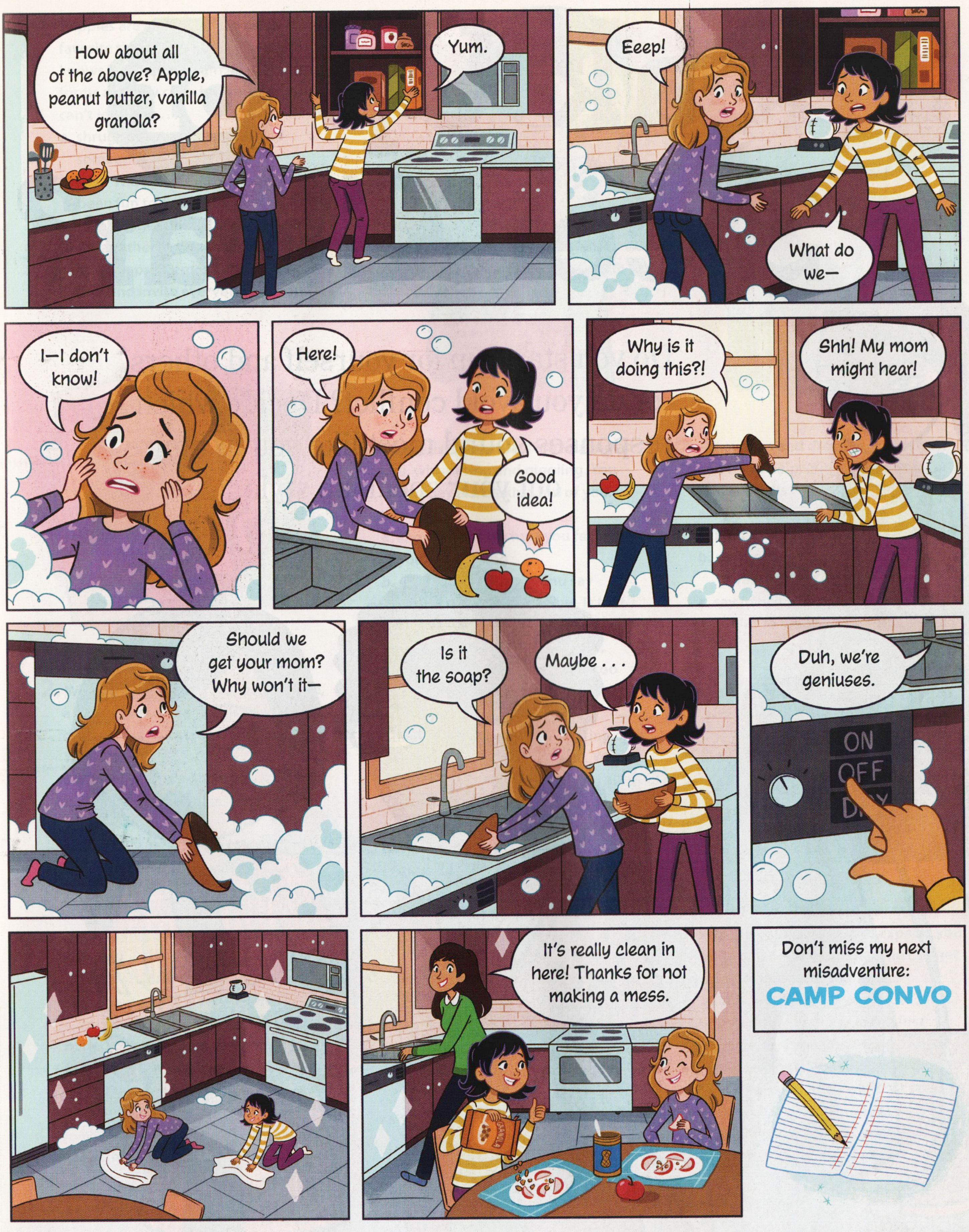
Send your answers to the address on page 7, along with your first and last name, address, school or portrait-style photo, and birth date. Postmark deadline: June 10, 2016. Some answers will appear in the November/ December 2016 issue. ★

According to Aggie™

Bubble Trouble

Created by
Mary Richards Beaumont,
Dan Nordskog & Genevieve Kote


Hi, Liv.
Hey! Come on in.
Oh, hello, Aggie. Girls, I'm going to be in my office on a call.
Try to keep it down, OK?
'K, Mom.
And run the dishwasher, please?
Oops, we're out of soap.
We could probably just add some of the other dish soap, right?
I don't know. My mom says to only use the dishwasher soap.
But it's all for dishes, right?
I'd be in trouble for interrupting my mom while she's working. I'd be in trouble for not doing dishes.
I say we just try this.
Want a snack?
Snack! Yes.
Sweet or salty? Or fruit?


How about all of the above? Apple, peanut butter, vanilla granola?
Yum.
Eeep!
What do we—
I—I don't know!
Here!
Good idea!
Why is it doing this?!
Shh! My mom might hear!
Should we get your mom? Why won't it—
Is it the soap?
Maybe . . .
Duh, we're geniuses.
ON
OFF
DRY
It's really clean in here! Thanks for not making a mess.
GRANOLA

Don't miss my next misadventure:

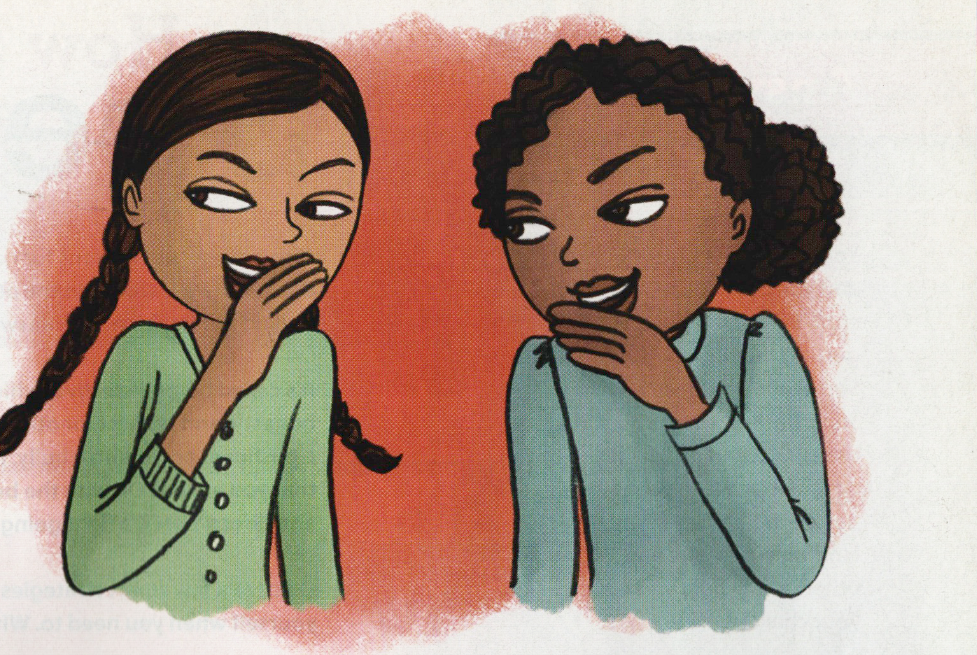
CAMP CONVO

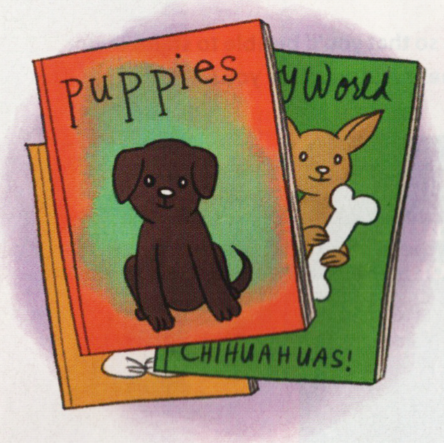
Speak Up or Steer Clear?

Do you stand up for yourself and others, or do you avoid conflict? Decide which responses sound most like you to figure out your speak-up style.

1. Puppies are your absolute most favorite thing in the world. Everyone knows it. One day, a girl in your class forms a puppy club, but she says you can't join. You . . .

- **a.** shrug your shoulders and find someone else to play with.
- **b.** say, "That's too bad. It would have been fun to get all the puppy lovers together. But there's room for another puppy lovers group."
- **c.** say, "No problem. I'll start my own club and invite everyone but you."





2. While you're waiting in the lunch line, a classmate comes up, gives you a dirty look, and cuts in front of you. You . . .

- **a.** do nothing. It's not worth it.
- **b.** say, "Next time, please ask me and I'll let you in."
- **c.** say, "Hey, jerk! What do you think you're doing?!"

3. A girl in your class tells all the girls except one to wear green on Wednesday. You . . .

- **a.** feel bad for the girl who was left out, but you mind your own business.
- **b.** decide that you don't want to be a part of hurting someone's feelings. You skip the green.
- **c.** secretly try to convince the girls to wear purple instead. That way the rule maker will feel left out.

4. Two girls in your class are looking at you, whispering and giggling. You know they are making fun of you. You . . .

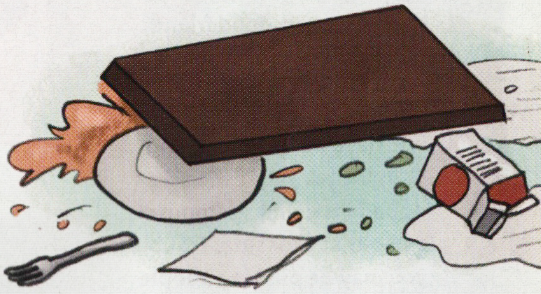
- **a.** show them how hurt you feel, but you say nothing.
- **b.** raise your eyebrows and say confidently, "C'mon, guys. Is that necessary?"
- **c.** walk right up to them and say, "What's the matter? Are you too scared to say that to my face?"

5. Some kids on the bus are picking on a boy from your neighborhood. You . . .

- **a.** feel bad for him and give him a smile when he passes by.
- **b.** invite him to sit with you.
- **c.** stand up and say, "Knock it off, you guys. Just because you're flunking out doesn't mean you have to pick on the smart kid!"

6. A boy trips and drops his lunch tray. You try to help, and a girl grabs your arm and tells you not to. You . . .

- **a.** stay seated, but you give the boy a kind look.
- **b.** pull your arm away and say to her, "I want to help him."
- **c.** say to her, "What's your problem? You're so mean!"



7. Every Friday is popcorn day at school. A girl in your class always expects you to give her money so that she can get a bag of popcorn. You say . . .

- **a.** nothing. After all, you started this by sharing with her in the first place, and you don't want to hurt her feelings.
- **b.** "I wanted to let you know that I don't have extra money this week."
- **c.** "I'm tired of you using me. Don't you have your own money?"

Text: Patti Kelley Criswell Illustrations: Angela Martini

Answers

Mostly a's

You try to steer clear of trouble, and you don't sweat the small stuff, even if it means not getting the things you want. Sometimes your easy, breezy style works well for you. Other times, you end up feeling like a doormat because you let people walk all over you. Finding your voice and letting others know how you feel is your challenge.

Mostly b's

You know how to stand up for yourself while also considering the feelings of others around you. Many people will admire the honesty and kindness you bring to problem solving. It's not always easy, but doing the right thing makes you a role model—and a good friend.

Mostly c's

You have no trouble telling people how you feel, and nobody is going to stomp on you—that's for sure. Trouble is, you may be pushing people away. Being mean in response to bullying just keeps the fight going. Work on standing up for yourself in a way that respects other people's feelings, too.

How to Speak Up

Girls have lots of reasons for not standing up for themselves, but staying quiet doesn't always work. On the other hand, getting in someone's face or talking behind her back isn't the answer, either. **There's a better way.**

It's called being ***assertive,*** which means speaking up with confidence, honesty, and respect for others. It's kind of the halfway point between being a pushover and being a bully. Here's how it works: You let the person know that you are not OK with the bullying, and you do it in a way that isn't mean and doesn't keep a fight going.

Practice a few smart strategies at home so that you'll be able to stand up for yourself when you need to. **Which of these will work for you?**

Try chuckling and walking away:

"That's pretty funny . . ."

Try asking a question:

"Was that really necessary?"

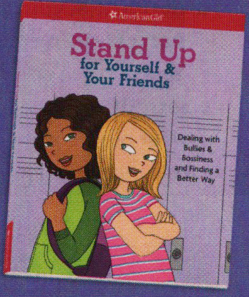
Try acting surprised:

"I can't believe you said that!"

BIG IMPORTANT POINT

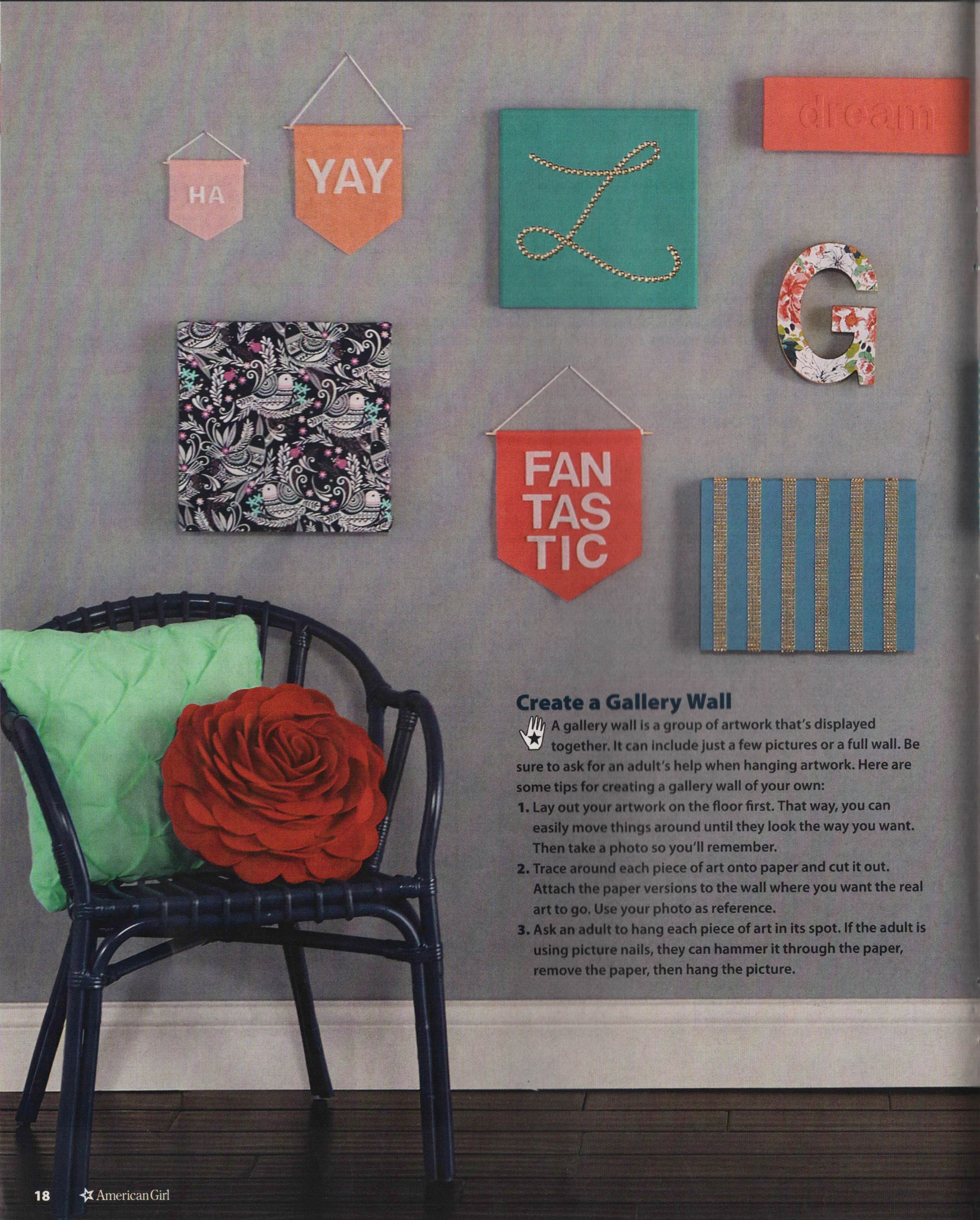
You have a right to defend yourself, and there are smart ways to do it. Just be sure you speak up in a way that solves problems and doesn't create more.

More advice for dealing with bullies can be found in ***Stand Up for Yourself & Your Friends.*** ★


American Girl
Stand Up for Yourself & Your Friends
Dealing with Bullies & Bossiness and Finding a Better Way

Art(full) Room

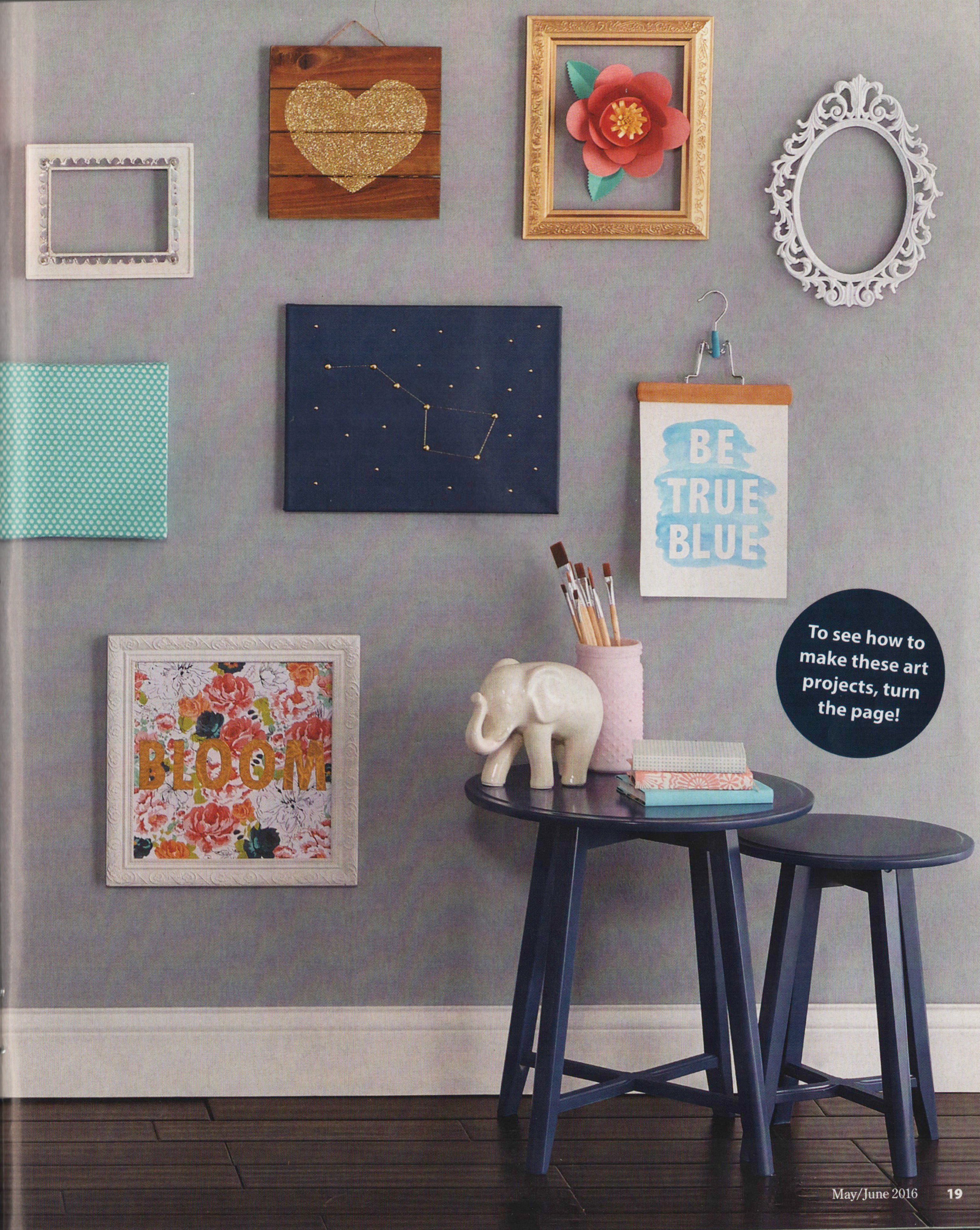
Bedroom walls a little boring? Decorate your space with art made by you!



Create a Gallery Wall

A gallery wall is a group of artwork that's displayed together. It can include just a few pictures or a full wall. Be sure to ask for an adult's help when hanging artwork. Here are some tips for creating a gallery wall of your own:

1. Lay out your artwork on the floor first. That way, you can easily move things around until they look the way you want. Then take a photo so you'll remember.
2. Trace around each piece of art onto paper and cut it out. Attach the paper versions to the wall where you want the real art to go. Use your photo as reference.
3. Ask an adult to hang each piece of art in its spot. If the adult is using picture nails, they can hammer it through the paper, remove the paper, then hang the picture.


BE
TRUE
BLUE
BLOOM

To see how to make these art projects, turn the page!

Before you begin, make sure to cover your work surface and clothing.

Word Art

This art project is short and sweet. Start with a piece of patterned scrapbook paper. Use jumbo letter stickers to spell out a word or phrase. Finish by putting the paper in a frame.

Studded Style

Paint a corkboard with nontoxic acrylic paint. Let dry. Lightly sketch or trace a letter using chalk. Push thumbtacks along the lines, covering up the chalk.

Use smaller felt pieces and dowels to make mini banners.

Bold Banner

Create a colorful flag with an encouraging word. Start with a 9-by-12-inch felt rectangle. Fold the felt in half lengthwise and cut off one corner, then unfold. Draw a thin line of nontoxic fabric glue along the top edge of the banner. Fold the edge over about 1 inch to make a sleeve for a dowel. Use clothespins to hold the felt together while the glue dries. Let dry overnight. Use adhesive-backed felt letters to spell a word. To make the hanger, slide a 12-inch wooden dowel through the sleeve. Tie a string to each end of the dowel. Now it's ready to hang!

Pattern Play

Decorating with fabric is a quick way to add color to a wall. Cut a piece of fabric that's the same shape as your canvas but three inches larger on all sides. Lay the fabric flat with the printed side down. Then set the canvas facedown on top of the fabric. Ask an adult to help you wrap the fabric around the canvas on all sides and staple it to the back.

Starry Sight

Make a spot to stargaze. Cover a canvas with nontoxic navy blue craft paint. You may need 2–3 coats. Let dry between coats. Once the paint is dry, use chalk to make dots on the canvas where the stars in your constellation will be. (We made the Big Dipper, part of the constellation known as Ursa Major.) Next, use a pushpin to make holes in the chalk dots. Then insert a paper fastener (also called a brad) into each hole. Now it's time to connect the stars. Knot a piece of thin string around the first paper fastener in the constellation. Then wrap the string around each fastener to complete the shape, knotting it again at the end. Trim excess string.

Sparkle Stripes

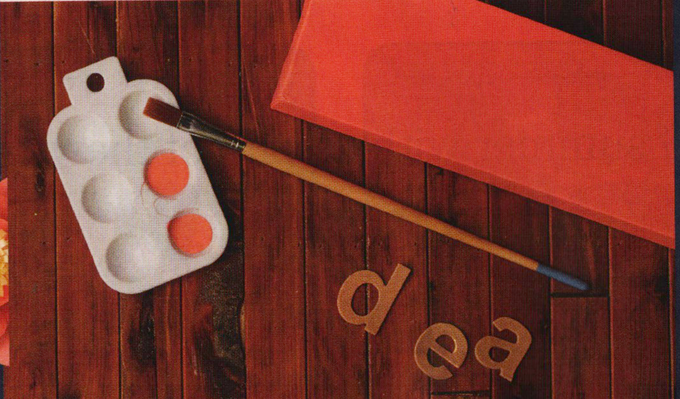
Start with a wooden or heavy cardboard box lid. Paint the lid using nontoxic acrylic paint. Let dry. Attach strips of sequin trim (available at craft stores) to the lid using craft glue. Let dry.

Lovely Letter

Decorate your initial! Start with a 3D wooden or cardboard letter (available at craft stores). Trace around the letter onto scrapbook paper. Cut out the paper letter and set aside. Next, paint the sides of the letter with nontoxic gold craft paint. Once the paint is dry, cover the sides with decoupage glue. Sprinkle gold glitter over the glue before it dries. Shake off excess glitter and let dry. Use a small paintbrush to spread a thin layer of decoupage glue on the front of the letter. Attach the paper letter and smooth out any wrinkles. Once dry, add one more layer of decoupage glue on top of the paper letter. Let dry before using.

Frame Up

Use an empty frame to turn a 3D object (a paper flower, seashell, or other fun decoration) into art. Or, don't frame anything at all. Empty frames can be art too!



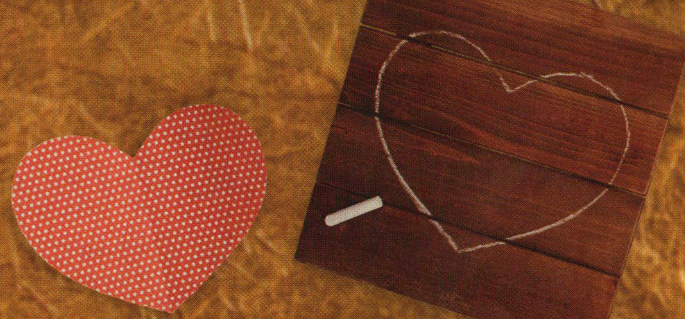
Painted Words

Add a pop of color to a wall with this bright canvas. First, paint a canvas with nontoxic acrylic paint. Create a word on the canvas by attaching adhesive-backed chipboard letters. Then cover the letters and canvas with another coat of paint. Let dry. (Do one more coat of paint if needed.)

BE
TRUE
BLUE

Watercolor Words

Create a splash of color. Use removable letter stickers to spell a phrase on watercolor paper. Use a paintbrush to cover the letters and most of the paper with watercolor paint. Let dry. Carefully peel away the letters to reveal your phrase! Use a pants hanger to display it.

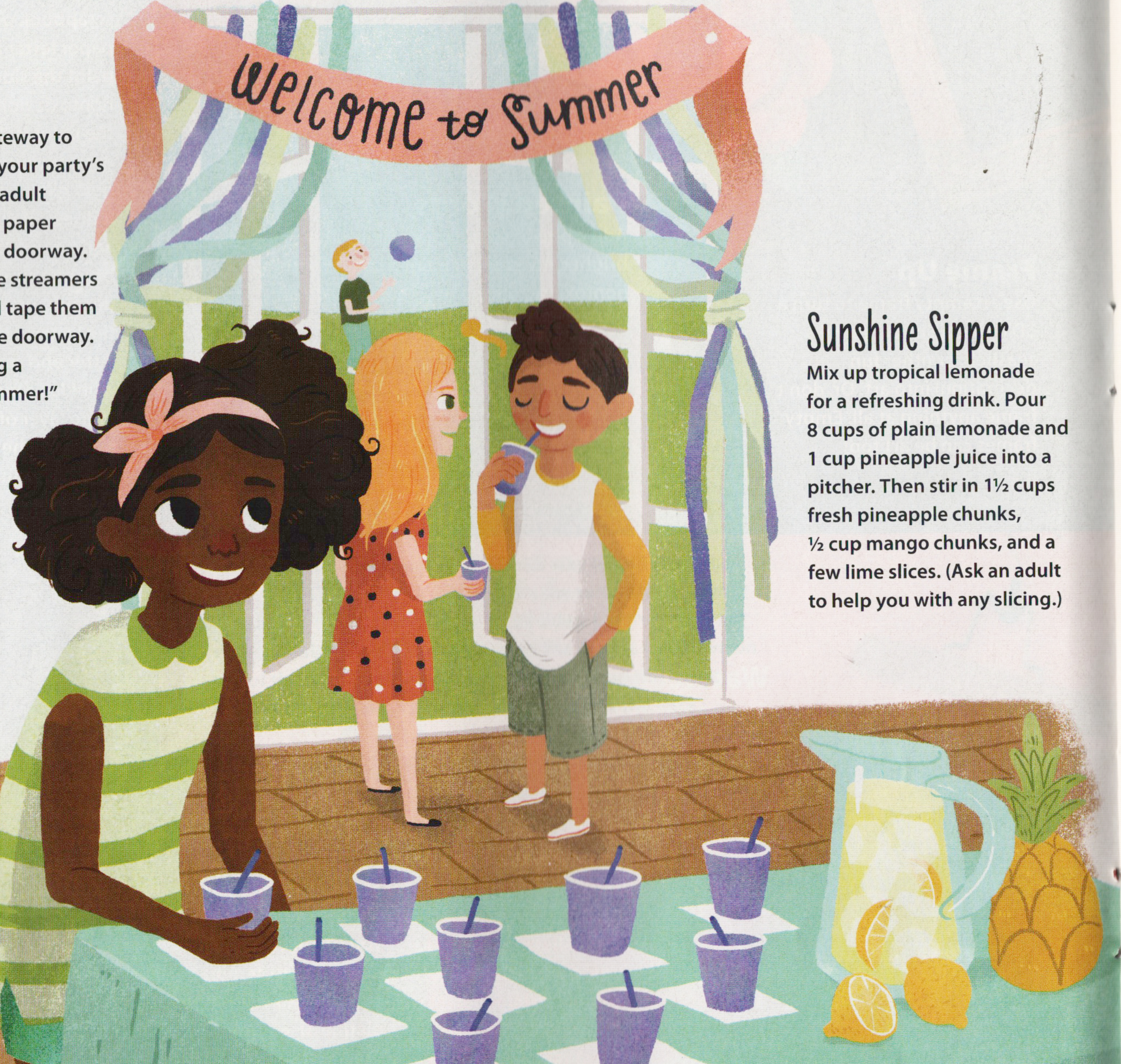


Heart of Gold

Sparkle and shine with a handmade heart. For this craft, we used a premade wood plaque from the craft store, but you can use canvas, fabric, or scrapbook paper too. First, make a heart template out of scrapbook paper (as shown). Use chalk to trace around the template onto the wood plaque. Use nontoxic gold craft paint to outline and fill in the heart shape. Let dry. Next, use a foam brush to cover the painted heart with a layer of decoupage glue. Before the glue dries, sprinkle gold glitter on top of it. Shake off excess glitter and let dry. ★

Hello, Summer!

Kick off summer with an end-of-the-year party!



Party Portal

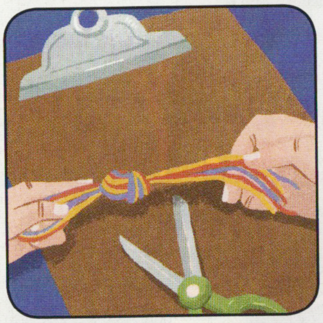
Create a "gateway to summer" at your party's entrance. Ask an adult to help you hang paper streamers from a doorway. Then separate the streamers in the middle and tape them to each side of the doorway. Finish by hanging a "Welcome to Summer!" sign at the top.

Sunshine Sipper

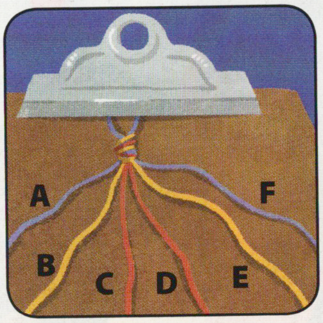
Mix up tropical lemonade for a refreshing drink. Pour 8 cups of plain lemonade and 1 cup pineapple juice into a pitcher. Then stir in 1½ cups fresh pineapple chunks, ½ cup mango chunks, and a few lime slices. (Ask an adult to help you with any slicing.)

Buddy Bracelets

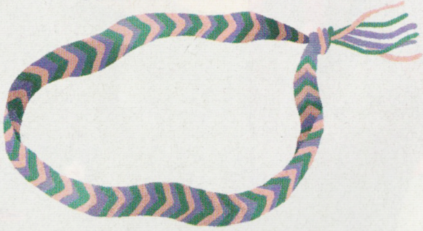
Make fishtail friendship bracelets during the party. Wear them when you're apart over the summer.

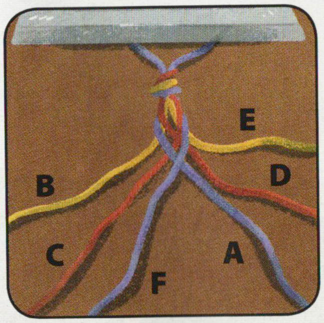


1. Choose three colors of embroidery floss. Measure and cut six 24-inch pieces, two of each color. Group the pieces together and fold in half. Tie a knot to form a loop.

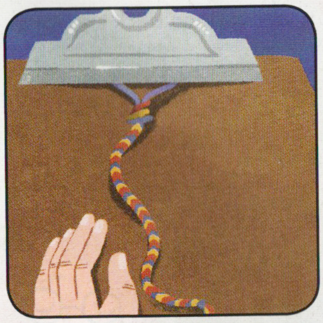


2. Attach the loop to a clipboard. Separate the strands as shown.





3. Starting with strand **A**, bring it over strands **B** and **C**, and alongside **D**. Then bring strand **F** over strands **E**, **D**, and **A** and alongside **C**, as shown.

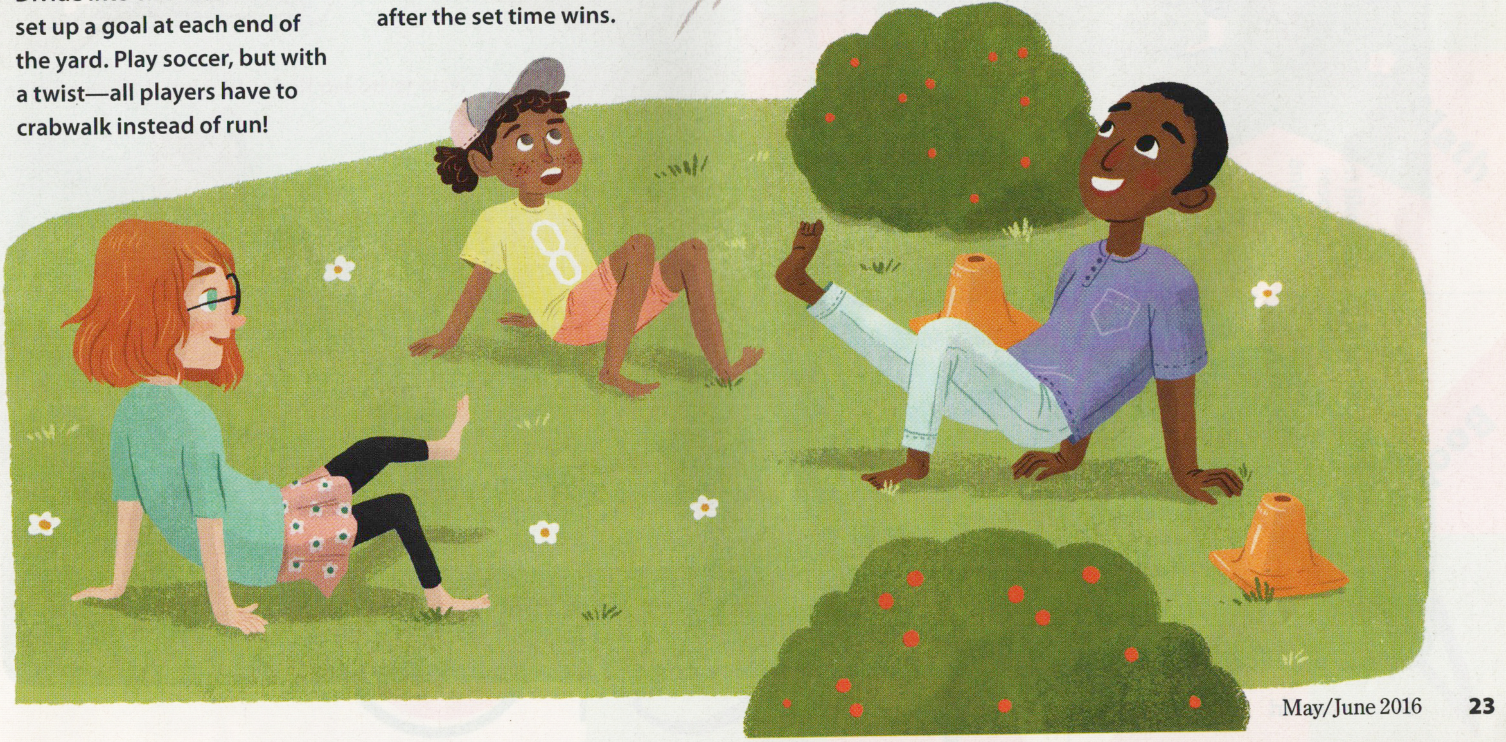


4. Repeat the weaving sequence in step 3, always starting with the left outermost strand, followed by the right. Continue until the bracelet is long enough to wrap around your wrist. Tie all the strands in a knot. To fasten, thread the knot through the loop on the opposite end.

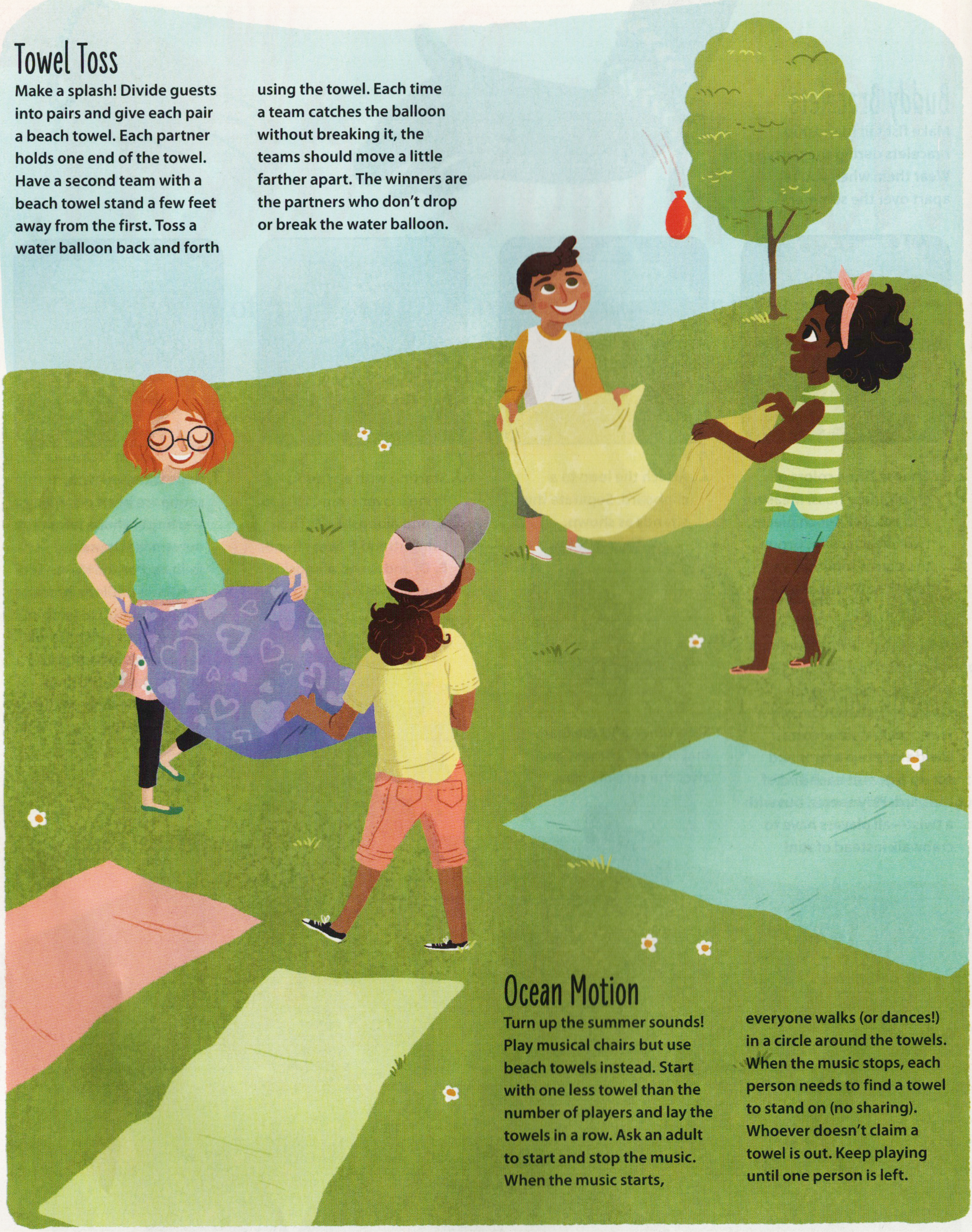
Scuttle Soccer

Play ocean-style soccer. Divide into two teams and set up a goal at each end of the yard. Play soccer, but with a twist—all players have to crabwalk instead of run!

Set a timer, and the team that scores the most goals after the set time wins.



Illustrations: Emma Trithart

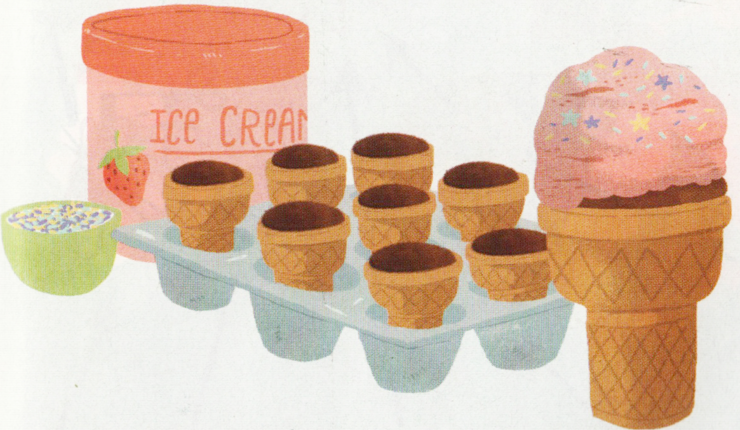


Towel Toss

Make a splash! Divide guests into pairs and give each pair a beach towel. Each partner holds one end of the towel. Have a second team with a beach towel stand a few feet away from the first. Toss a water balloon back and forth using the towel. Each time a team catches the balloon without breaking it, the teams should move a little farther apart. The winners are the partners who don't drop or break the water balloon.

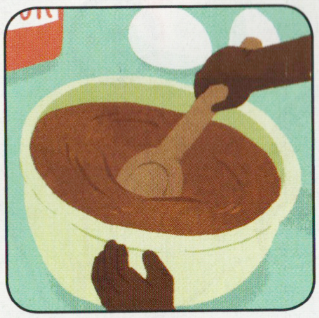
Ocean Motion

Turn up the summer sounds! Play musical chairs but use beach towels instead. Start with one less towel than the number of players and lay the towels in a row. Ask an adult to start and stop the music. When the music starts, everyone walks (or dances!) in a circle around the towels. When the music stops, each person needs to find a towel to stand on (no sharing). Whoever doesn't claim a towel is out. Keep playing until one person is left.

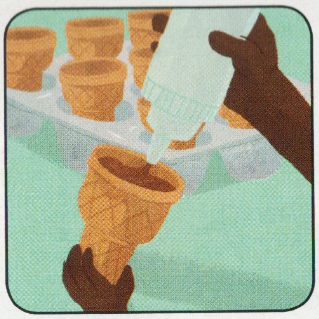


Ice Cream Cupcakes

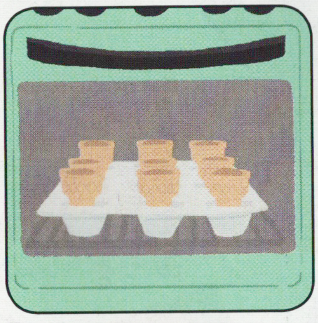
Serve a summertime treat with a special surprise—there's a cupcake inside! Makes about 2 dozen cupcakes.



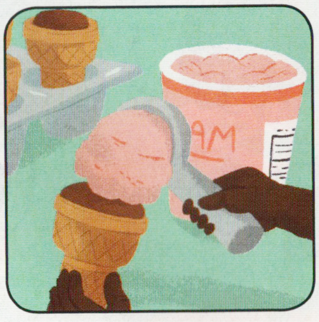
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Using a 15.25-oz. box of cake mix, follow the package directions to make the batter.



2. For less mess, pour the batter into a food-safe squeeze bottle. Then fill each flat-bottomed ice cream cone (just the straight section of cone) and place in a mini muffin tin.



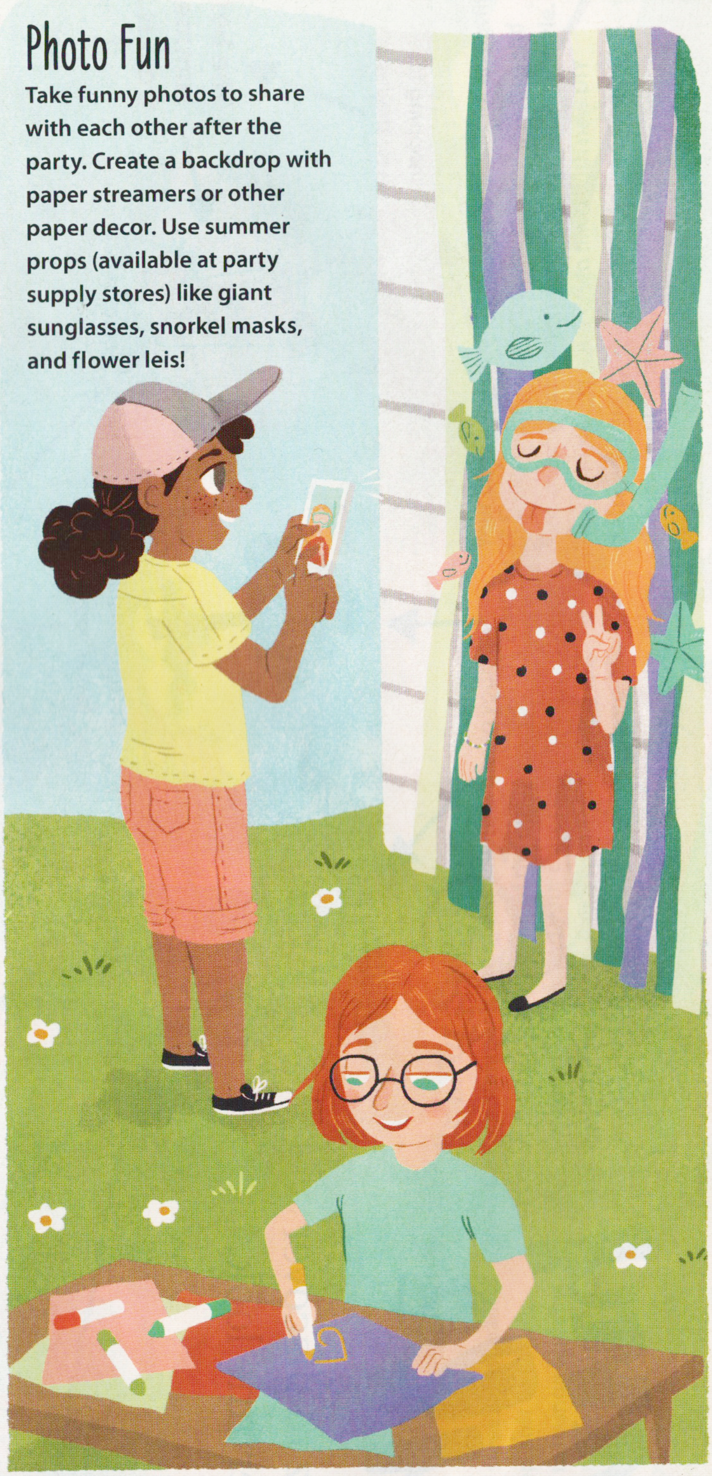
3. Ask an adult to bake the cupcakes for 20–25 minutes. Let the cupcakes cool completely.



4. At the party, put a scoop of ice cream on each cupcake and top with sprinkles. Serve immediately.

Photo Fun

Take funny photos to share with each other after the party. Create a backdrop with paper streamers or other paper decor. Use summer props (available at party supply stores) like giant sunglasses, snorkel masks, and flower leis!



Sign Off

Send each guest home with a school-year souvenir! Give each guest a solid-colored bandanna. During the party, set up an autograph table and take turns signing each other's bandannas with colorful fabric markers. (Be sure to cover the table to protect the surface.) When the party's over, guests can use the bandannas as room decorations. ★

Sunny Style

Take this quiz to discover your summertime look.

START

You celebrate the first day of summer by...

sleeping in.

getting outside as fast as you can.

shopping for new shades.

What color would you paint your room?

A cool and calming shade of blue.

Sunset orange.

You'd paint big gold stripes on one accent wall.

What's your favorite summer scent?

coconut.

lavender.

the smell of rain after a hot day.

The best summer treat is...

a smoothie.

polka-dot cupcakes.

Your free time is filled with...

bike rides.

craft projects.

Why is today great?

The sun is on your face and you're playing soccer with your friends.

You daydream about...

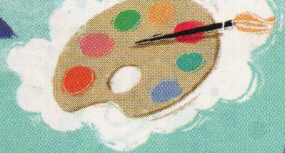
Illustrations: Marilena Perilli

American Girl

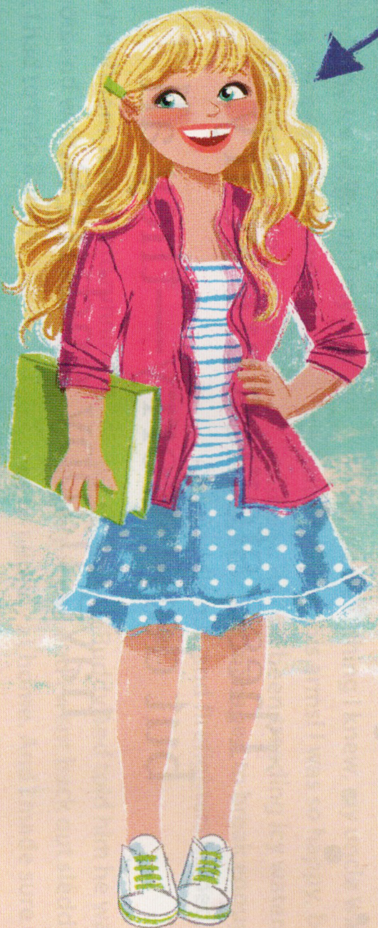
You're listening to good music and flipping through a magazine.

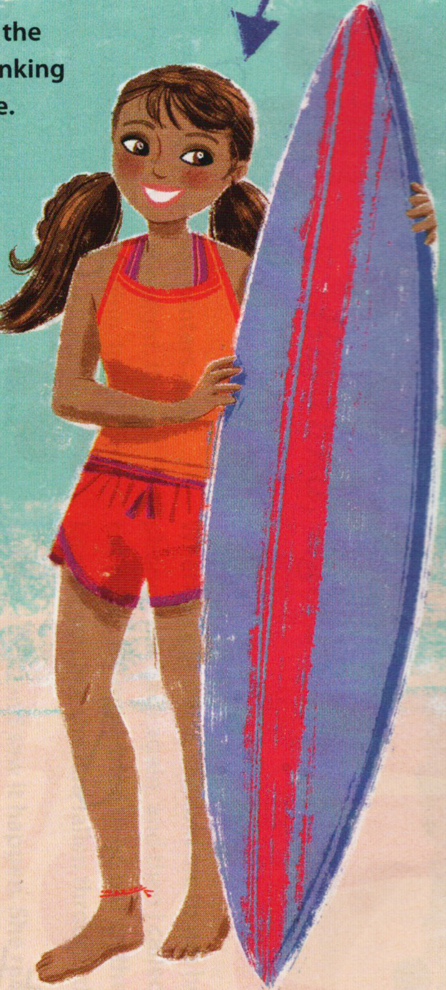
lounging in the shade and drinking lemonade.

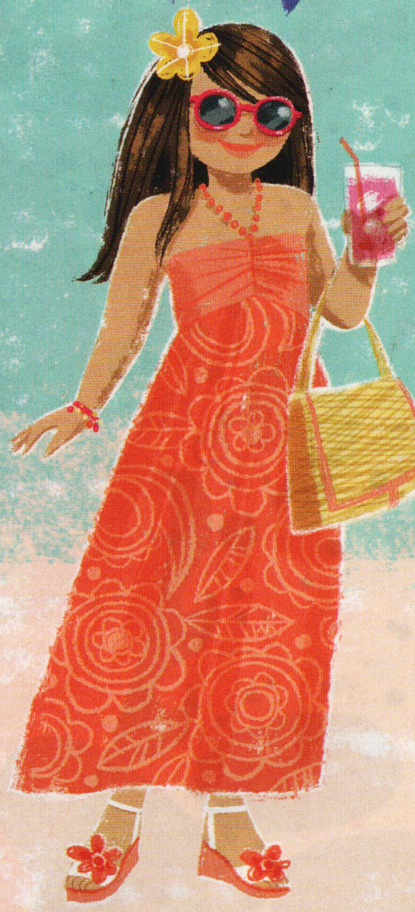
playing beach volleyball.



having your own art studio.







Easy Breezy

Your laid-back attitude and sweet personality pair well with a cute tank top, soft cardigan, and flowy skirt. You'll want to lounge under a beach umbrella in an outfit like this. Your summer days are filled with lots of relaxation, good friends, and comfy clothes.

Sporty Sweet

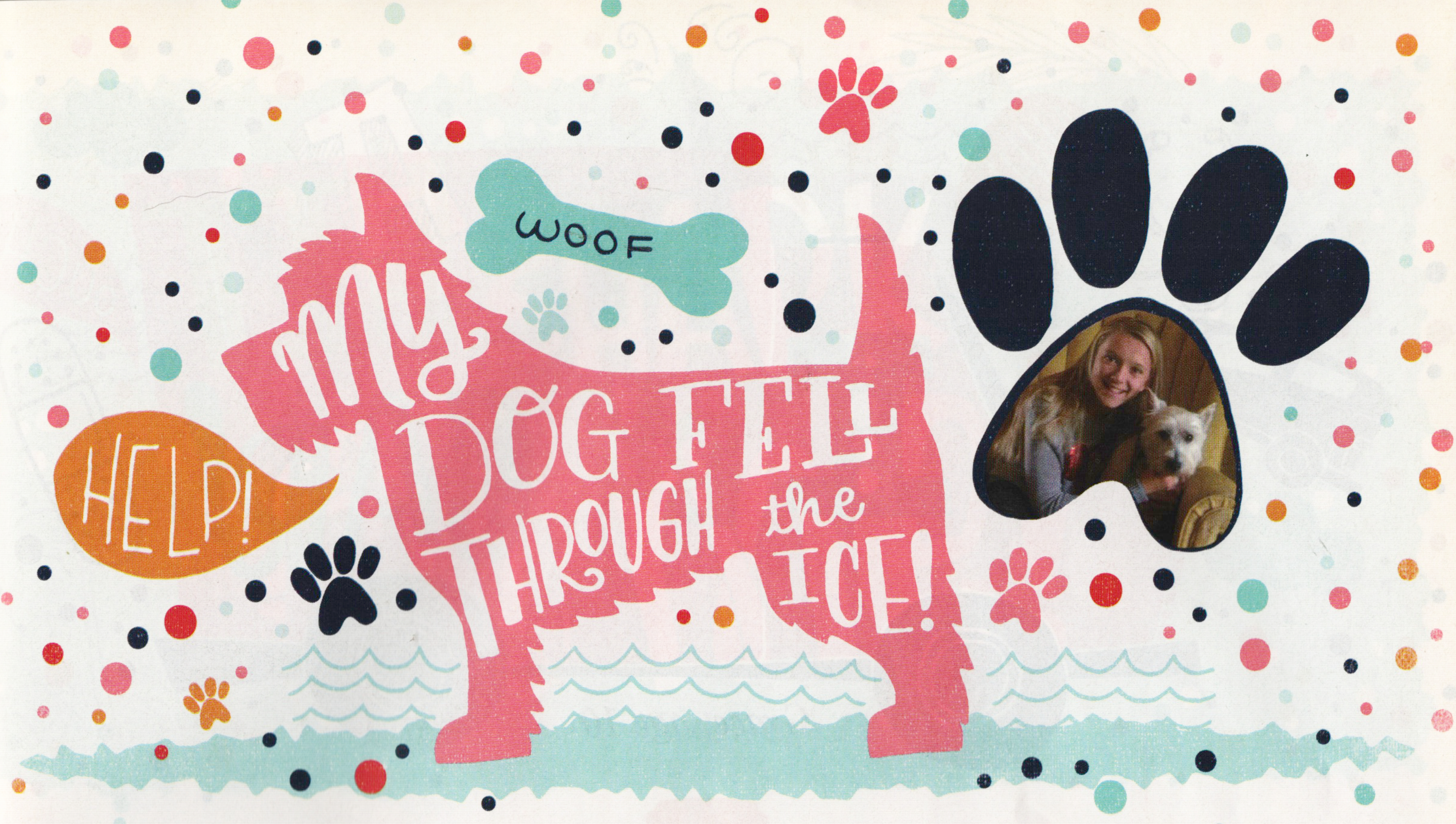
Your summer is full of fun activities due to your athletic nature and love of the outdoors. You're always on the go, and your closet is bursting with athletic outfits. Pair a sporty swimming suit with bright surf shorts and get going on your next adventure!

Beach Beauty

Your bright and creative personality calls for an outfit that will shine. Try a sundress, cute sunglasses, and fun sandals that show off your trendy and bold style. Your summer days are often filled with new DIY crafts, soaking up the rays outside, and summer shopping with friends. ★

Yikes!
AHHHH!
OH NO
OUCH!
XXXXX

These stories are scary, but don’t worry—they all have happy endings.



HELP! My DOG FELL THROUGH the ICE!

Bryanna, age 13

Have you ever seen a miracle happen? Two winters ago, I did. It all started when a friend spent the night. It was snowing. The next morning we went sledding. It was cold that day. The snow was super slick and icy.

I asked my mom if we could go to our neighbor's hill and take my dog, Buddy. She said, "Sure." But she also said, "Don't go any farther than that." After a while, we walked over to another hill by a pond not far away. We were hanging out and sledding. Then all of a sudden I saw Buddy walk out onto the ice. I got scared when he walked to the middle of the pond. The ice was thin there.

We called for Buddy and yelled for him to get away from there, but he didn't listen. Then suddenly the ice broke, and my dog fell in the water. I panicked. There were so many things going through my mind. I asked my friend if I should go in and get him out.

She said, "NO!"

Instead, I ran to my house to tell my mom. It was hard running in my puffy snow clothes and boots and with all the snow and ice on the ground. I was tired, but I had to help Buddy.

When my mom heard what happened, all she said was, "Get in the car, Bry."

When we got there, she told me to run home again and get her phone. I ran back again, and then I called my dad. But back at the pond, my mom tried to go out on the ice with a sled. I didn't know it yet, but she had fallen through the ice, too.

Luckily, my friend saw it happen. She ran to a neighbor's house for help. Soon an ambulance came. My mom got out of the water, but Buddy was still swimming for his life. The fire department put a ladder out onto the ice to get him, but it didn't work. I was back again by then, and someone said my friend and I should wait inside the neighbor's house. It didn't look good for Buddy. I went inside and cried and hoped for a miracle.

Then, the next thing I knew, my uncle walked into the house with Buddy in his arms! I was so happy, but Buddy was so cold and wet. He had been treading icy water for about 45 minutes. A neighbor had managed to break enough ice for Buddy to dog-paddle out, and firefighters helped, too. We got Buddy into a warm bath, fast.

We all hugged Buddy and told him he was a good boy. Later that day, my friend and I went back out sledding again, but this time we left Buddy at home. And I made sure not to go any farther than my mom said I could.

Illustrations: Matthew Taylor Wilson

I GOT HIT BY A CAR!

Grace, age 10

When I was seven, I was hit by a car. My family was on our way to see my favorite singer, Taylor Swift, in concert. I was standing with my parents on the side of the street, waiting to cross. I was so excited to get to the show! When my parents weren't looking, I crossed the street by myself. I thought it was all clear. I made it across the street to the other curb, and then looked back to see if my dad was going to be mad.

That's when a big black SUV hit me. I never saw it coming. I kind of flew about five yards and then skidded across the concrete. It was scary. And painful. I remember seeing the sky and crying and crying and wondering, *What happened to me? Is this a nightmare?*

Then I was in an ambulance. I was in so much pain that I can't remember what happened when we got to the hospital. I think they did tests and checked me out, and then I went into surgery. I had a concussion and big cuts on my head, some broken bones (including my skull), and a lot of really bad scrapes on my chest, knees, and elbows.

I had to stay in the hospital for days. It was especially hard for my family because we were on vacation to see the concert and were far from home. When we finally got to go home, I had to basically live in the living room because I was too hurt to go up the stairs, even to sleep. I missed the first two weeks of second grade. Breakfast in bed was fun at first, but it got old fast. And I was sad to miss school. Knowing that I'd have fun when I got back to school kept me going. My friends and classmates were sweet, sending care packages and checking on me until I could come back.

Of course I had missed the concert after the accident. But then the craziest thing happened. After I was feeling better, Taylor Swift invited us to another of her concerts. It was so exciting! I have been listening to her music for a long time, and I love to sing along to her songs. She had heard about what happened to me.

The night of the show, during the opening act, we were invited into a waiting room. That's when Taylor Swift came in and started talking to me. She said she was sorry about what had happened but that she hoped I felt better. She asked me to sing extra loud for her because she had a cold that night. She was really, *really* nice. I actually don't remember much of our meeting because I was so starstruck. I kind of got tangled with my words and didn't know what to say. After she left, we went back to the concert. I sang loud. It was the most amazing night ever.

A SHARK BIT me!

Kaley, age 11

My family and I love going to the beach. We live in Florida, so it feels like summer all year. We go to the beach every weekend and sometimes even during the week. I love to surf and swim and hang out.

But last August, something really scary happened. It started out as a regular warm, sunny day without a cloud in the sky. We were at the beach with friends. Late that afternoon, my friend, her six-year-old cousin, and I were swimming in shallow water, talking about school starting. Then I felt something on my right leg. I thought a crab bit me. I thought, *What?* and then I saw a shark swimming near me. It was about three feet long. I could see its gray fin above the water.

I was terrified. I thought, *This can't be happening.* I think I was in shock. I yelled to my friend, "Get out of the water! It's a shark!" She ran onto the beach toward our parents. I started running, too. But then I looked over my shoulder and realized my friend's little cousin was still in the water.

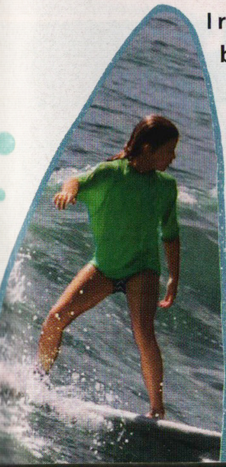
I ran back and grabbed her hand. I knew it was risky, but I also thought I probably wouldn't get bitten again. When she saw my leg, she screamed. She had the biggest eyes ever. I felt a searing pain. I was super scared. We ran for the beach, and then an ambulance came.

On the way to the hospital, it started storming. I'm terrified of thunder and lightning. The whole situation was like my worst nightmare. But everybody told me I was going to be OK.

At the hospital, I got 90 stitches in my right thigh. They are in the shape of a shark bite. The doctors thought the shark might have bitten me twice because there was a smaller bite inside the big bite.

Luckily, I only had to miss the first three days of school. When I got there, all the girls wanted to push me in my wheelchair.

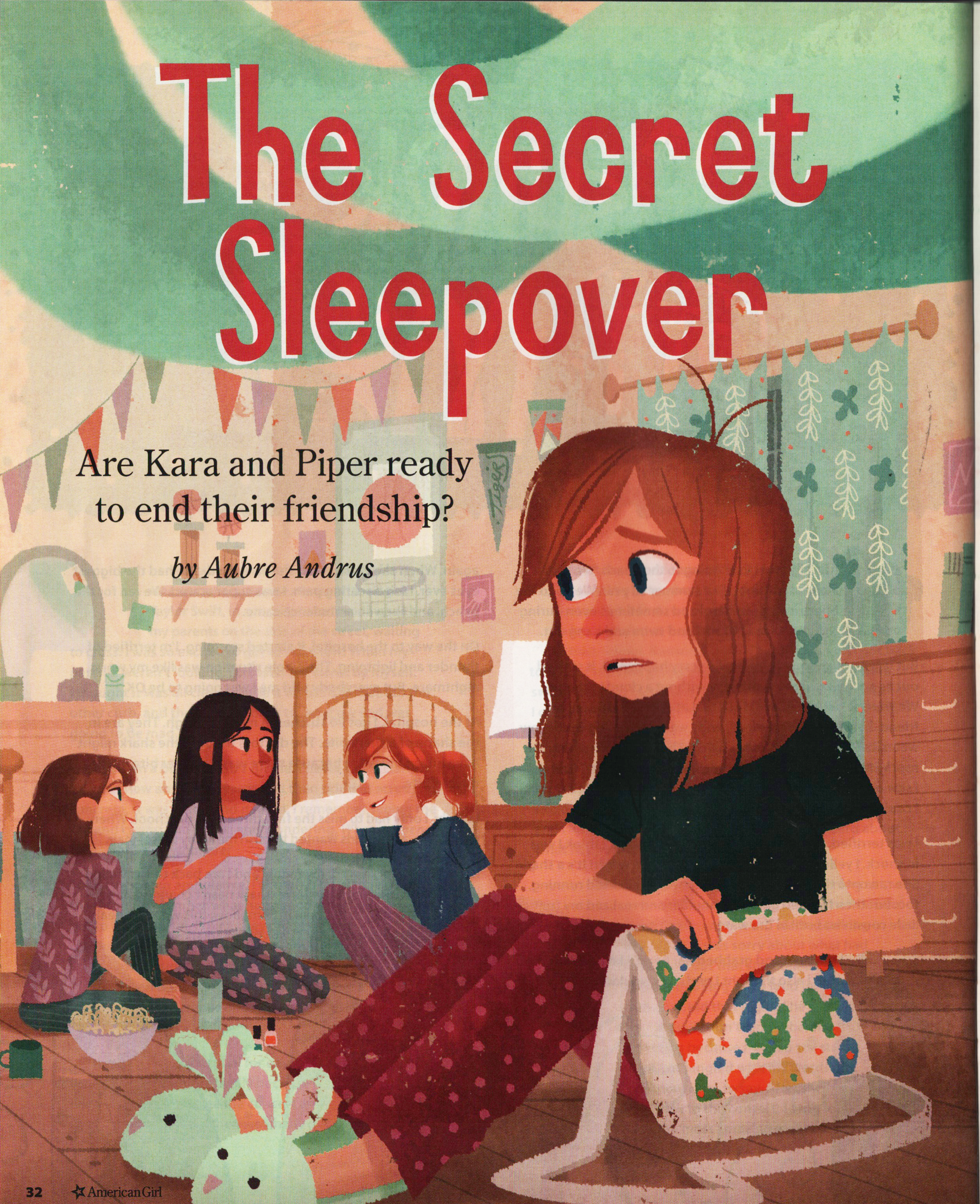
Now that I'm recovered, my family and I are back to swimming in the ocean. Getting bitten by a shark hasn't changed how much I love going to the beach. Somehow, this whole ordeal made me love it more. I say, "Back off, sharks!" ★

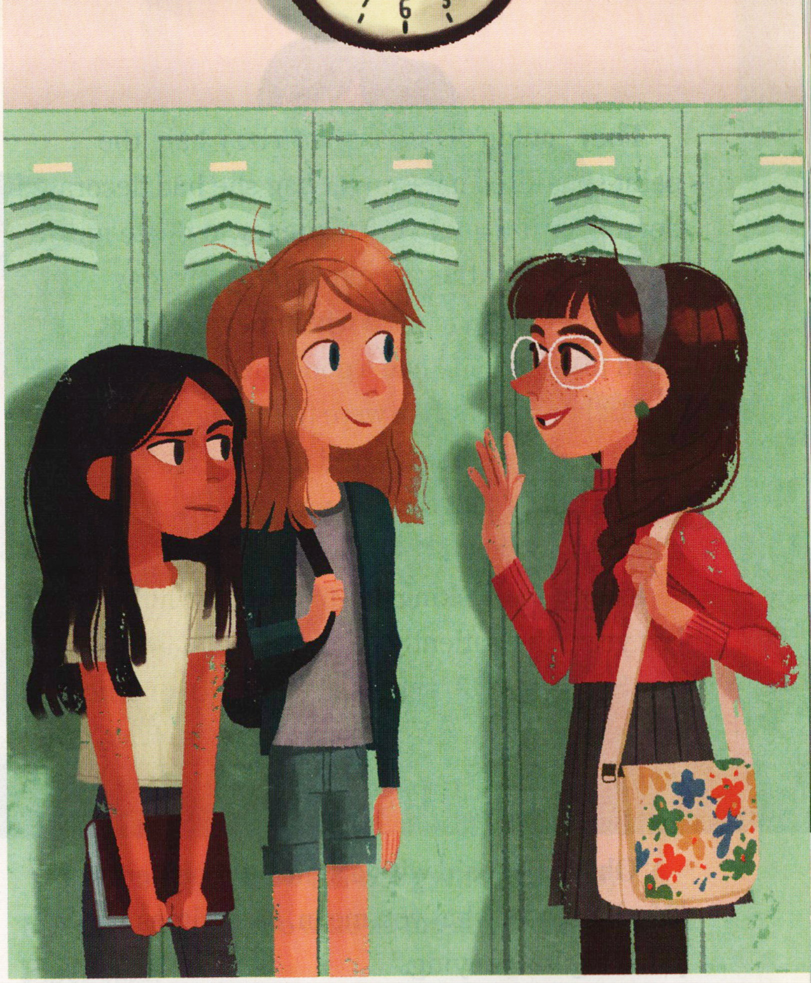


The Secret Sleepover

Are Kara and Piper ready to end their friendship?

by Aubre Andrus





"Kara! Kara!"

Oh no. Here she comes. I turned away, gave my friend Madison an eye roll, and then turned back around with a friendly smile.

It was Piper. She came barreling down the hall faster than a hurricane. I couldn't help but laugh a little when I saw her. She was always running late and looking a little disheveled.

We'd lived on the same block since first grade and were inseparable throughout elementary school, but things had changed lately. I had become really close with my basketball teammates this season. Between practices, games, and special spaghetti dinners where we powered up for the next tournament, I had barely seen Piper.

Apparently she hadn't noticed.

I had a feeling she was going to bring up something that I had been avoiding for weeks—our birthday party. I say "our" because we usually celebrate together. Our birthdays are two days apart, so we'd organized double birthday parties for the past three years. They were always tons of fun because we had a lot of friends in common.

But this year is different. At least I think it is. If I don't bring it up, she won't bring it up, I told myself.

"I was just thinking—our double birthday bonanza is coming up so soon and we haven't had a chance to talk about it! Oh, hi, Madison," Piper said, elbowing her playfully in the ribs.

Madison flashed an uncomfortable smile. Piper was not her favorite person.

"Um, you're right," I said, stepping away and avoiding eye contact with Piper. I felt winded, like I had just run sprints in basketball practice. This situation had played in my mind over and over again, but now that it was happening, I didn't know if I could go through with it. Madison cleared her throat as if that would help me find my voice.

"You know, this year, I was just thinking of doing something with my family," I said. The words sounded quiet as they tumbled out of my mouth. That's because they were a lie.

I'd actually had a sleepover planned for weeks with Madison, Emma, and a few other friends from the basketball team. I didn't want Piper to know. She was like a sister to me, but my basketball friends thought she was a little weird.

"Are you sure you want to invite her?" Madison had asked me weeks ago when she and Emma and I were talking about my upcoming birthday after basketball practice.

"Piper won't even know what we're talking about and she'll feel left out," Emma said. "She'll have nothing to do when we talk about basketball."

My basketball friends were right. Piper was no athlete.

Illustrations: Stevie Lewis

They couldn't see past her frizzy hair, the paint-splattered messenger bag she had decorated herself, or her annoying tendency to recite movie lines whenever they would fit into everyday conversation—and even when they wouldn't. I had to admit, she had a good memory.

But honestly, those were the things I liked about her—paint-splattered bag and all. She's unique and creative and funny. Sometimes I wish a bit of her would rub off on me.

I remember asking her to teach me how to draw last year. She patiently taught me for a few hours one Saturday afternoon, but even with practice, I never could draw a tree or a face as well as Piper could. She made me laugh all afternoon so I didn't feel bad about it.

"Oh," Piper said with a smile still on her face. "Yeah, I know what you mean, sometimes party planning is annoying."

"Right. I've been so overwhelmed with school and basketball that I haven't even had a chance to think about it." I felt like I was an actor pretending to be stressed out in a movie. I wondered if she'd believe my performance.

"Well, it's OK! I'll figure out something on my own. See you later, alligator!"

She was always so nice. Was that all it would take? Something told me that hiding a birthday party from a friend wasn't going to be this easy.

As she walked away, Madison burst out laughing. I glared at her to make her stop, but it was too late. I know Piper heard. She kept walking anyway.

"She's really sweet, you know," I said. I tried to stand up for her like a good friend should. But when it came down to it, it felt like I was the exact opposite.

"Yeah, really sweet. And really *weird,*" Madison said as she laughed again.

I slammed my locker shut while a terrible feeling started growing in my stomach and then started to take over my entire body, down to my fingertips and toes. I wished I could hit rewind and redo this conversation.

"Don't worry about it," Madison said.

But I knew that was easier said than done. Maybe Emma was right. It was kind of like I was protecting her by not inviting her. I was being a good friend, right?

For the next two weeks, I tried to avoid Piper, which wasn't hard to do because basketball season was in full swing and we weren't in the same classes this year. I banned all my basketball friends from any birthday sleepover talk on school grounds.

On Tuesday, we had a close call. Emma was so excited that she brought up the sleepover during lunch.

"Can it be Friday already?" she said with a big grin on her face. Luckily, it was only us basketball girls sitting together at the end of the cafeteria table.

"Zip it!" I snapped back at her.

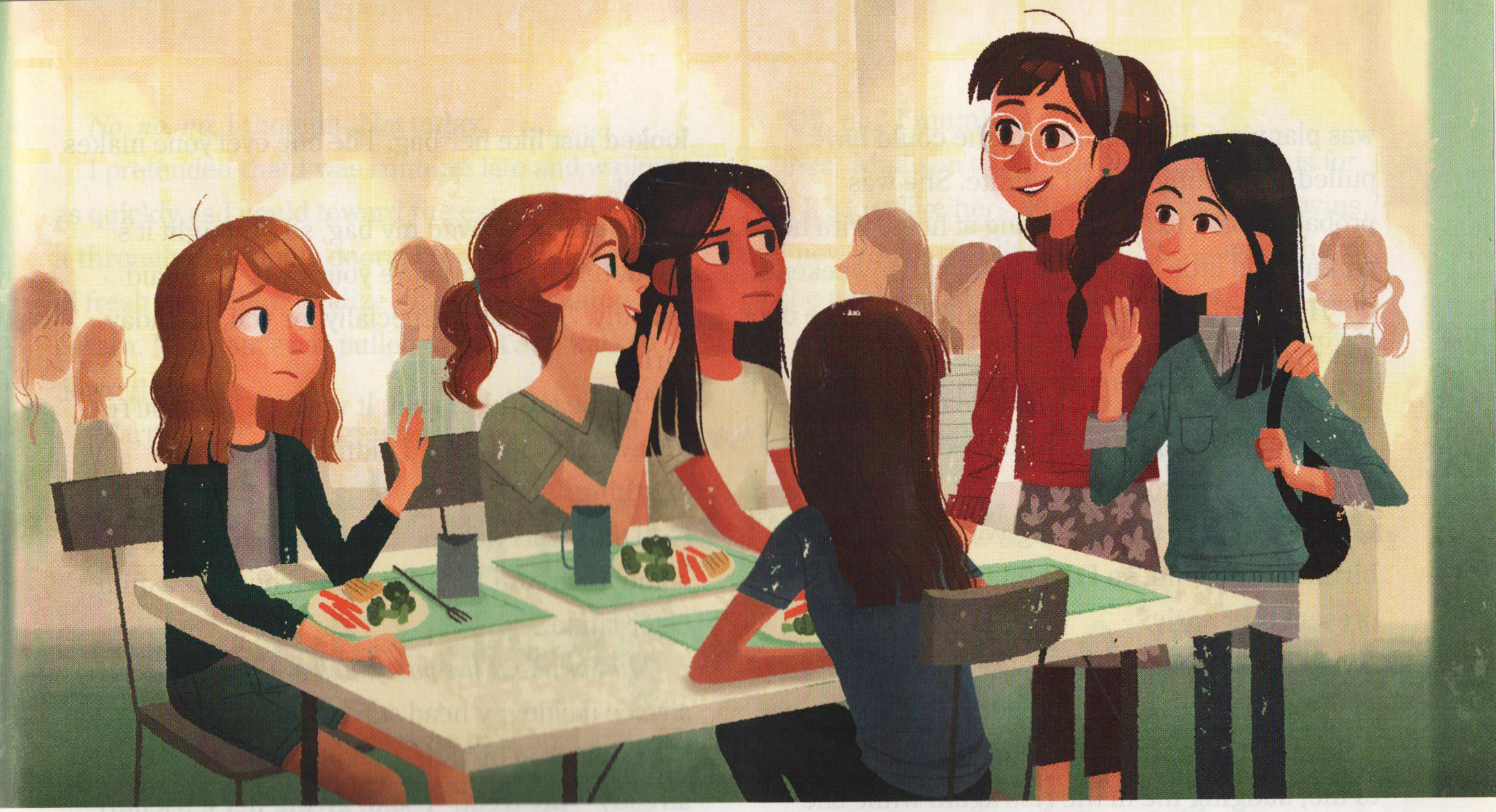
"What? It's not like she's here," Emma whispered.

"I just don't want to hurt her feelings," I whispered back.

Madison dropped her sandwich onto her paper bag.

"You really need to stop worrying, Kara," she said. "She's not going to find out, and if she does, who cares?"

"I do!" I reminded her.



At that moment, I heard my name being yelled from across the cafeteria.

"Everybody be quiet!" I said too loudly. They all froze and then began to eat silently.

Piper walked over with a girl at her side.

"Hi, everyone! I'm showing the new girl, Abby, around the school. Abby, these are a few girls from the basketball team. My friends," she said.

Friends. The word hurt.

Seeing her and Abby together reminded me of when I first moved to our street. We live just a few houses away from each other, and when I was new, Piper invited me over to watch a funny movie with all the other neighborhood kids. She introduced me to them just like she was introducing Abby to us now. I bet Abby was already thinking about how lucky she was to meet such a great friend on her first day.

"Hi, Abby," we all said in unison as we put on our friendliest smiles. I gave Piper an extra-heartfelt smile, as if that would make up for not inviting her to my sleepover.

"I'm going to show her the gym next. Abby has gym at the same time as me and Madison," Piper said.

"See ya then," Madison said. You could tell she was not looking forward to it.

"Cheerio!" Piper waved good-bye as she and Abby continued the tour. Abby giggled at her side.

Madison gave me a look that said *See, Kara, it's fine.*

You're protecting Piper by keeping it a secret from her, I reminded myself. The problem was, I was hurting her at the same time.

The night before my party, the doorbell rang.

"Kara, it's Piper!" Mom called to me as she peeked out the window.

My stomach hit the floor. What if she was inviting me to her birthday party? What if it was tomorrow night? I hadn't even heard what Piper was planning. There's no way she could have pulled something off last minute. She was probably going to end up sitting at home with her parents and little brothers like any other weekend.

"Hey, birthday twin!" Piper said before the door was even fully open.

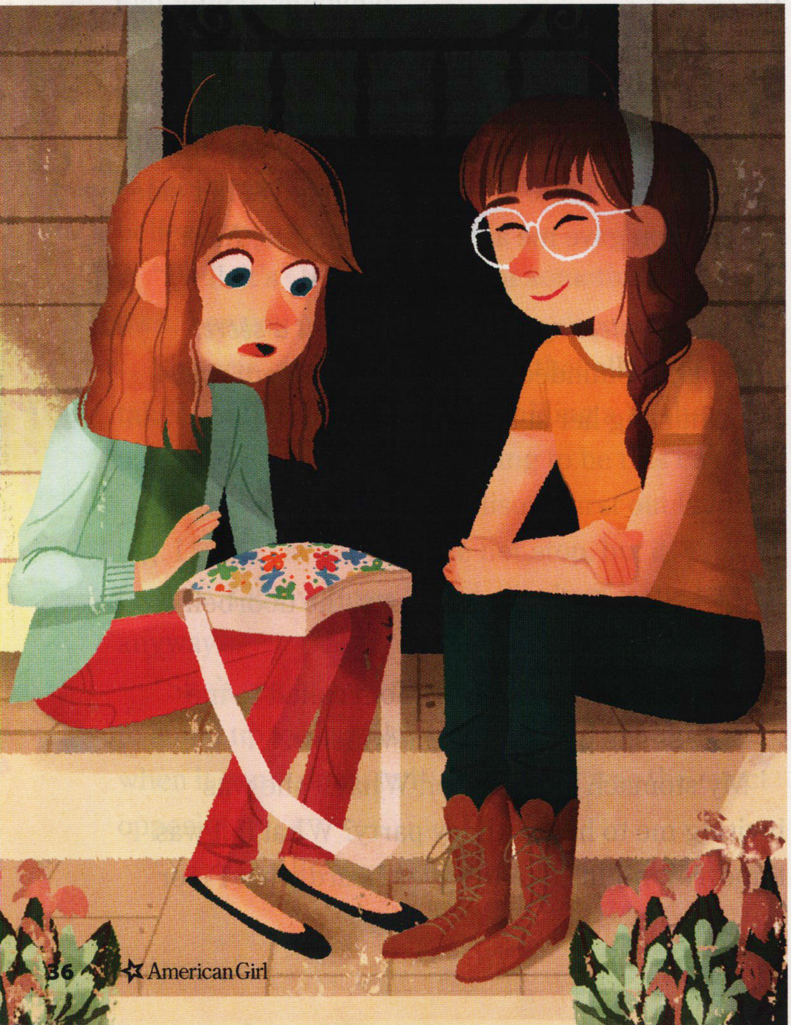
"What's up?" I asked, a little nervous as I eyed a big lime-green gift bag with tie-dyed tissue paper bursting from the top.

"Well, I didn't want to bug you on your family birthday weekend, so I thought I'd bring your present over early."

I didn't move.

"Open it!" she said, shoving the bag in my arms.

I sat on the stoop as Piper took a seat next to me, nudging me in the ribs again while she giggled with excitement. From the tissue paper emerged a paint-splattered messenger bag that looked just like her bag. The one everyone makes fun of.



"You always loved my bag, so I thought it's about time that you have your own," she said proudly. "I made it especially for you, birthday girl."

"It's beautiful," I said. It wasn't a lie. "You're always so thoughtful. I didn't even get you anything."

"Don't worry about it. Maybe we can grab some ice cream Monday after school for a mini celebration."

Tell her about the party. Tell her about the party, a voice inside my head screamed.

"I got some birthday money from my grandma already—my treat," I said, giving her a friendly nudge back.

"I should head back home, it's such a long walk," Piper joked. "I hope to see that bag in action in the hallway tomorrow!"

"Sure," I lied.

Only 36 hours until my party was over. Something is very wrong if I'm counting down the hours until my sleepover ends instead of when it begins, I thought.

"Happy birthday to me," I said to myself before I walked back inside.

I didn't bring my bag to school the next day. I chickened out. Mostly I felt guilty that Piper was such a good friend to me when I was such a terrible friend to her. I didn't deserve to have such a nice gift.

I spotted her in the hall at the end of the day out of the corner of my eye. She was about to raise her hand to wave to me.

No, no, no, I thought. Not today.

I pretended that I was running late and walked as quickly as I could toward the exit. Once I made it through the double doors, I took in a big breath of fresh air. I didn't realize I had been holding my breath. My mom's car pulled up just as I walked down the steps.

"Party time!" Mom greeted me as I stepped inside. I'd asked her to drive me to school and pick me up today so I didn't have to sit with Piper on the bus. It felt like this lie had taken over my life.

My birthday party hadn't even started, but I already wanted it to end.

"I guess so! Should be fun," I forced myself to say.

My birthday party hadn't even started, but I already wanted it to end.

Madison was the first to arrive at my sleepover. I hurried her in and closed the door quietly as if I were sneaking her into the house without my parents knowing. I peeked out the corner of the window to make sure Madison's parents were backing out of the driveway as quickly as possible. Piper lived only three houses away.

"Hey, what do we have here?" Madison asked. She was holding the bag Piper made me with one finger, like it was a dirty sock. I didn't realize I'd left it on the table in our entryway. "This looks like something your grandma would have picked out! Am I right?"

"Oh, no," I mumbled. "Piper . . ."

"No!" Madison said. "She totally made this for you! It's just like hers. First you're birthday twins, and now you're real-life twins." She laughed hard as she modeled the bag on her own shoulder.

I could feel my face turning red. I didn't know if it was anger or embarrassment. Either way, I wanted Madison to remove the bag from her shoulder. Now.

"She's actually really creative . . ."

"And really weird!" Madison finished.

I'd had enough. If I wanted to be a good friend, I had to start acting like one. I closed my eyes and counted to three. When I opened them, I knew just what I had to do.

"Don't move," I said to Madison.

I walked out the front door, went down three houses, and knocked on Piper's front door. I was going to invite her to my party. I'd tell her everything, apologize, and then make my other friends see how cool she is. I was doing the right thing.

"Piper!" I yelled as I knocked. The door opened quickly and a flood of music and laughter burst from the house. Through the screen door I spotted a few of our neighborhood friends and some of Piper's artsy friends digging into a pizza.

"Kara!" Piper said, surprised. She was rarely seen without a smile on her face. This was one of those times.

"Piper?" I didn't know what to say. I ran away as she called after me.

The walk home seemed long for the first time.

The last thing I wanted to do was celebrate at my own sleepover. I took a few deep breaths before I headed up the walkway to my house.

"What was that about?" Madison asked as I reluctantly walked inside.

"I thought I forgot something," I said. "But I didn't."

Saturday was my actual birthday, but I didn't feel like a bright and shining birthday girl. After everyone left, my mom took me to the mall to pick out a new pair of basketball shoes for my gift.

"Let's do this, birthday girl!" Mom said as we hopped out of the car. "C'mon, put on a smile."

She must have known something was wrong, but she also knew not to ask me about it yet. I wasn't ready to talk.

It seemed like Madison and the other girls had more fun than I did last night. After seeing Piper, everything felt wrong, and I couldn't shake the feeling away. I put on a smile when each girl arrived, and I almost forgot about Piper for a second when Emma started doing funny impressions of our teachers. But even after a good laugh, that bad feeling came back. I was almost kind of glad when everyone left this morning.

Mom and I decided to grab lunch in the food court before heading to the shoe store.

"You grab a table, and I'll order your favorite meal at the Chinese place."

I nodded and smiled. I didn't think the crab rangoon was going to make me feel any better, but at least it would taste delicious. I started walking toward an empty table across the crowded food court.

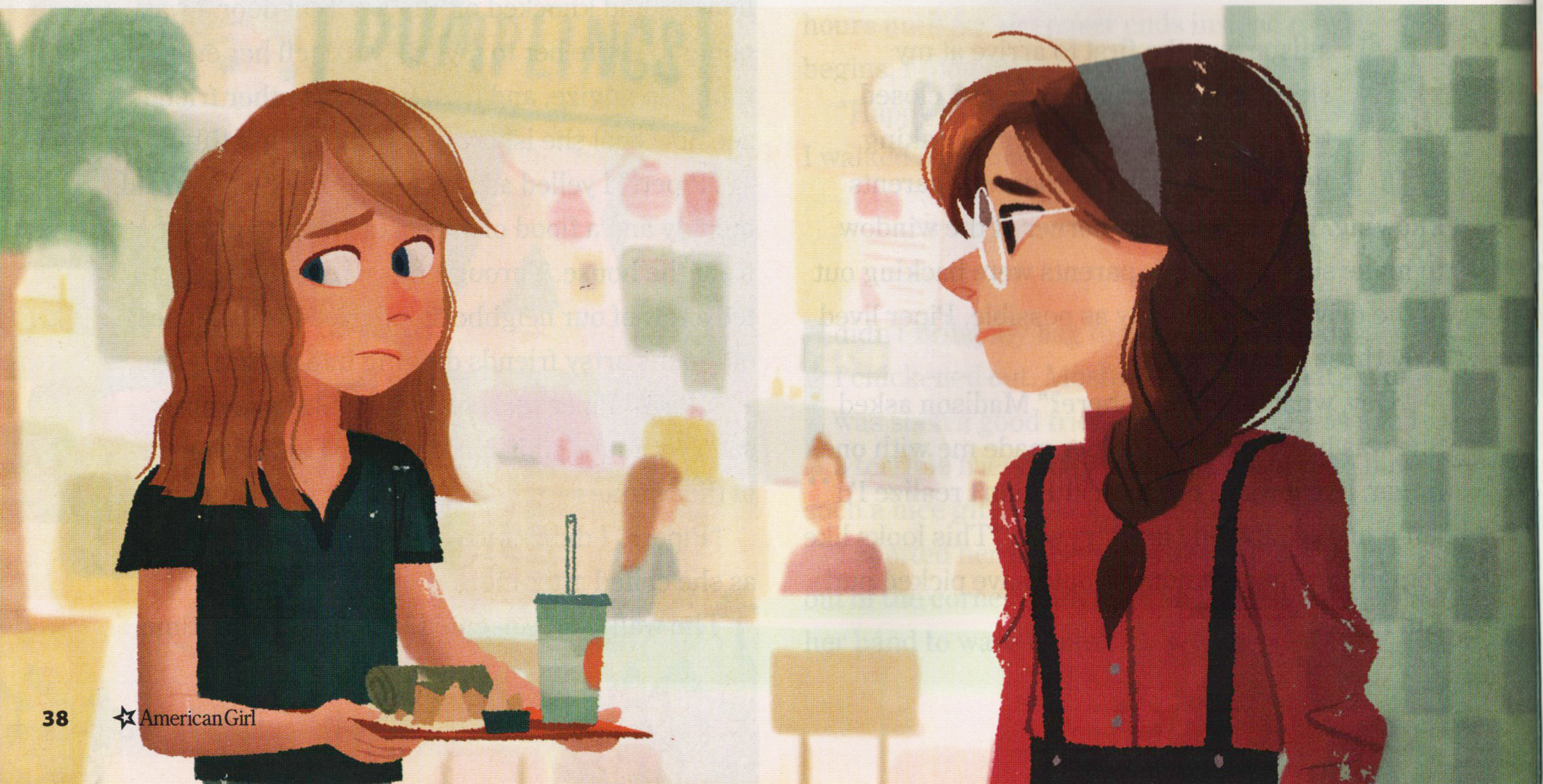
"Kara! Kara!"

No, no, no.

I turned around and was face-to-face with Piper.

"I hope I didn't ruin your sleepover," she said, out of breath. I was shocked. How did she know?

"Madison talked about it anytime I was nearby during gym class. I just figured you didn't want



to invite me, so I went ahead and made my own plans. I didn't want to make you invite me."

I was speechless. And ashamed.

"I'm so sorry," I said, tearing up. "I never should have lied to you like that."

"I understand," Piper said. But she wasn't smiling.

"I thought my new friends were really great, but being friends with them is not the same as being friends with you," I said. "I understand if you don't want to be friends with me anymore."

It was hard for me to make eye contact with her. Then I heard a giggle—just a small one, but it was definitely there. I looked up.

"It's OK if we have different friends. It doesn't mean we can't still be friends with each other," Piper said, the smile growing on her face. "I have new friends from art class, but I still consider you to be my friend."

She was always smarter than I was. I nodded.

"I guess there's no such thing as having too many friends," I said.

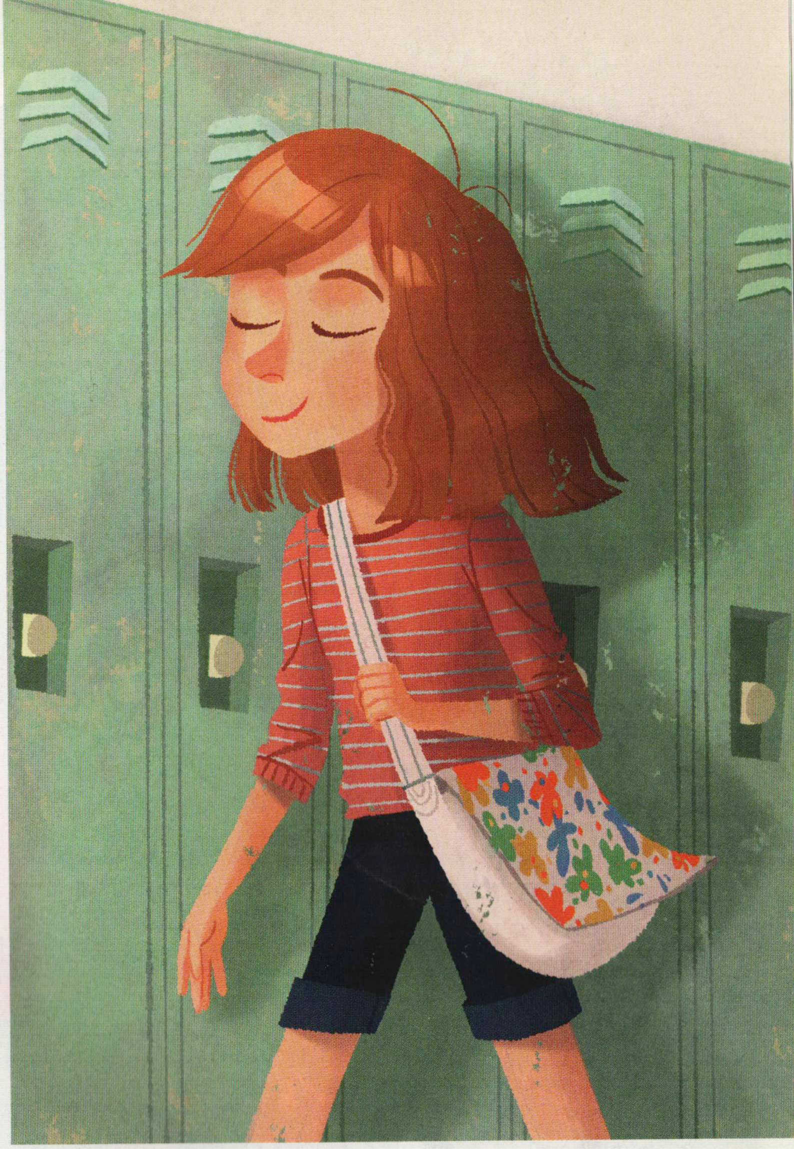
"Happy birthday, by the way," she added.

I gave her a hug. Now she was definitely smiling.

"Are we still on for ice cream after school on Monday?" An elbow jab followed.

"Of course," I said. I let out a sigh of relief and nudged Piper back.

On Monday morning, I walked with a bit more confidence through the front doors of my school, like I was on a mission. My paint-splattered messenger bag swung from my shoulder proudly. When people asked where I got it, I told them, "My super cool friend." ★



Meet the Author

About age 9
Now

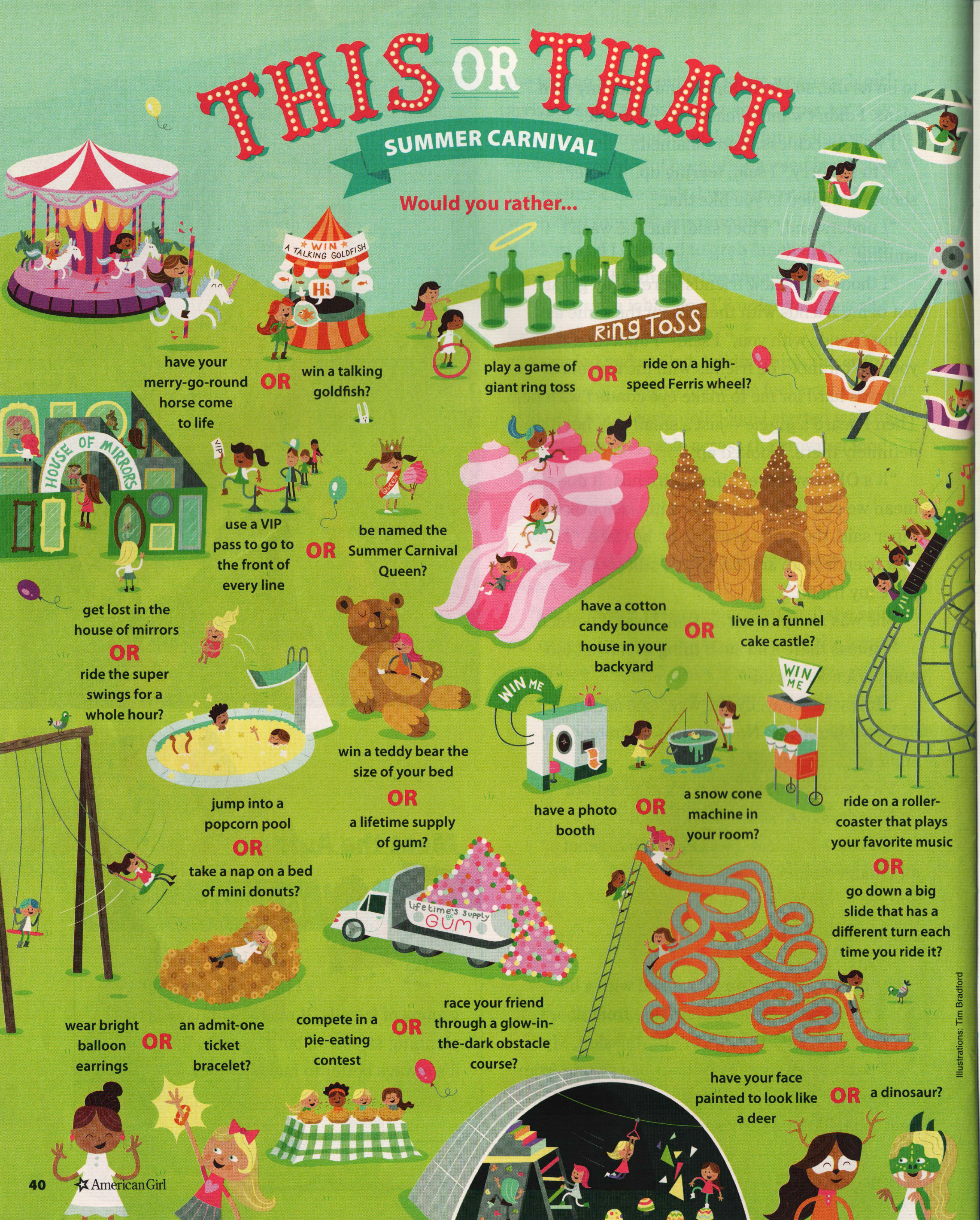
Aubre Andrus

When I was younger, I had a few different groups of friends. It made birthday party planning stressful, but I soon realized that it's always better to include everyone!

THIS OR THAT

SUMMER CARNIVAL

Would you rather...



have your merry-go-round horse come to life **OR** win a talking goldfish?

play a game of giant ring toss **OR** ride on a high-speed Ferris wheel?

use a VIP pass to go to the front of every line **OR** be named the Summer Carnival Queen?

get lost in the house of mirrors **OR** ride the super swings for a whole hour?

have a cotton candy bounce house in your backyard **OR** live in a funnel cake castle?

win a teddy bear the size of your bed **OR** a lifetime supply of gum?

jump into a popcorn pool **OR** take a nap on a bed of mini donuts?

have a photo booth **OR** a snow cone machine in your room?

ride on a roller-coaster that plays your favorite music **OR** go down a big slide that has a different turn each time you ride it?

wear bright balloon earrings **OR** an admit-one ticket bracelet?

compete in a pie-eating contest **OR** race your friend through a glow-in-the-dark obstacle course?

have your face painted to look like a deer **OR** a dinosaur?

Illustrations: Tim Bradford

B
Speak Up!
Favorite FOODS
Which meal do you like best?
Menu
Here are some of your favorite foods:
Dessert Menu
Which dessert do you like best?
Most of you enjoy baking the most.
Don't miss my next misadventure: CAMP CONVO
May/June 2016 13

D
Inside: Funny Future Tellers ✶ Adorable Puppy Posters
American Girl
May/June 2016
Room Crafts!
11 DIY projects
All-about-you quizzes
Summertime party ideas
Yikes! Scary stories with happy endings
Coming up in the August issue of American Girl magazine
Flower Frenzy
Sweet Sippers
Get Outside!
Nice Shades
For more fun and games, go to americangirl.com/playmagazine

A
BE TRUE BLUE
To see how to make these art projects, turn the page!
Contest
Sweet Sailboats
These bright boats were created by girls like you.
Seems Fishy
Pretty Peacock
S.S. Serpent

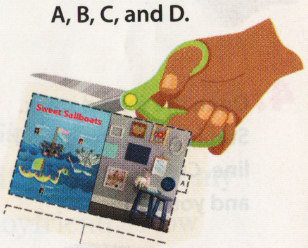
C
Girls Express
Shining Star
Do what makes you happy!
American Girl

Illustrations: Monika Roe

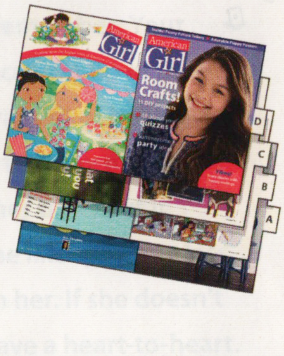
Mini Mag

With the Mini Mag, you can make a miniature copy of *American Girl* for your doll or stuffed animal. All you need are scissors and a stapler. Read the directions all the way through before you begin.

1. Cut out each pair of pages only on the dotted lines. Be sure to cut around the tabs marked with the letters A, B, C, and D.



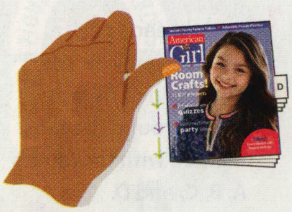
2. Stack the pages on top of one another in the order shown below, with the letters on the tabs facing up.



Continued ☛

Mini Mag

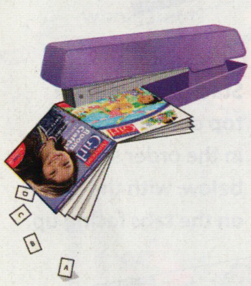
3. Fold the stack of pages in half along the solid line in the center. The cover of the magazine should now be on top. Run your fingernail down the folded edge to help the pages lie flat.



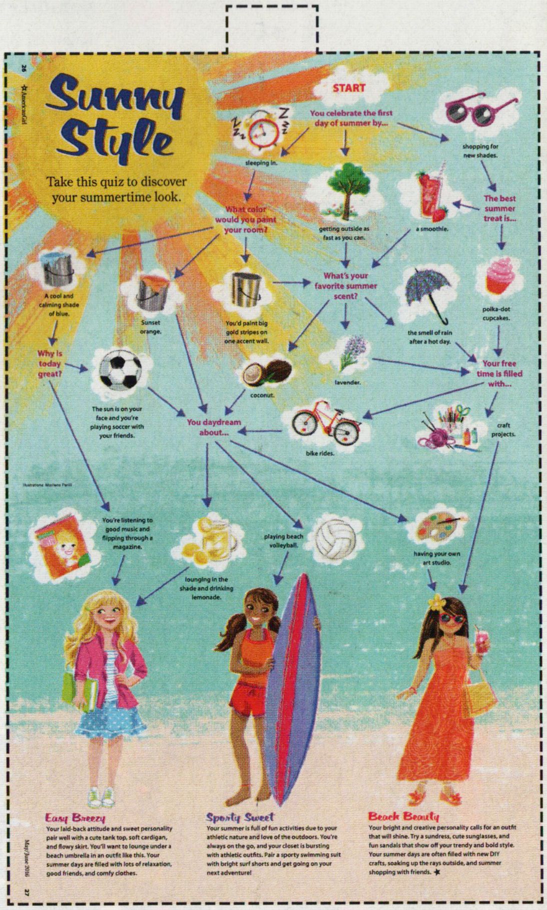
Girls Express
Trinket Trays
Make a decorated dish to hold jewelry, keys, or other small objects.
Let your worries float away.
American Girl

Create a Gallery Wall
HA
YAY
FAN TAS TIC
Turtle Toss
Sunny Sails
Mail Away

4. Open the folded stack. Staple along the center line. Cut off the tabs, and you're done!



According to Aggie
Bubble Trouble
ODDS
You would love to own a:
31% Diner 23% Bakery 15% Cafe 13% Fast-Food Place 10% Cupcake Shop 8% Candy Shop
What's the best after-school snack?
36% Fruit
36% Crackers
22% Granola bar
3% Yogurt
3% Veggies
Coming Up: Movies



Sunny Style
Take this quiz to discover your summertime look.
START
You celebrate the first day of summer by...
sleeping in.
getting outside as fast as you can.
shopping for new shades.
What color would you paint your room?
The best summer treat is...
a smoothie.
A cool and calming shade of blue.
Sunset orange.
You'd paint big gold stripes on one accent wall.
What's your favorite summer scent?
polka-dot cupcakes.
the smell of rain after a hot day.
Why is today great?
coconut.
lavender.
Your free time is filled with...
The sun is on your face and you're playing soccer with your friends.
You daydream about...
bike rides.
craft projects.
Illustrations: Mariana Perli
You're listening to good music and flipping through a magazine.
lounging in the shade and drinking lemonade.
playing beach volleyball.
having your own art studio.

Easy Breezy
Your laid-back attitude and sweet personality pair well with a cute tank top, soft cardigan, and flowy skirt. You'll want to lounge under a beach umbrella in an outfit like this. Your summer days are filled with lots of relaxation, good friends, and comfy clothes.

Sporty Sweet
Your summer is full of fun activities due to your athletic nature and love of the outdoors. You're always on the go, and your closet is bursting with athletic outfits. Pair a sporty swimming suit with bright surf shorts and get going on your next adventure!

Beach Beauty
Your bright and creative personality calls for an outfit that will shine. Try a sundress, cute sunglasses, and fun sandals that show off your trendy and bold style. Your summer days are often filled with new DIY crafts, soaking up the rays outside, and summer shopping with friends. ★

Carefully cut along the dotted lines to remove your posters. ★

Let your
worries float
away.

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Do what
makes you
happy!

Photo: © iStock.com/bschuitdesign

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HELP!

Dear *American Girl,*

I love doing gymnastics, but my mom says I will never make the team. What should I do?

Confused

Sports can be about competition. They can also be about exercise and friends and fun. In any sport or activity, you can always enjoy yourself without being No. 1. Ask your mom about her concerns, and see if you can continue to take the lessons you love, with the understanding that you don't need to be a superstar or a pro to get a lot out of gymnastics.

Dear *American Girl,*

My best friend does not like my sister. I love my sister! But I don't want to lose my friend.

Help

When your friend comes over, spend time with her alone instead of including your sister. No conflict, no problem. But if your friend and your sister clash (or if your friend bad-mouths her), you'll need to step up. "I know you don't love my sister, but I do. Please don't say stuff like that, OK?" A true-blue bud wouldn't make you choose between friendship and family. ★

Dear *American Girl,*

Creating crafts is my life! The trouble is, I make a big mess and don't want to clean it up. No fun.

create!

Imagine you're making a craft video. Cover your workspace with a piece of kraft paper or a disposable tablecloth. Gather your supplies and arrange them nicely, throwing away any trash and tidying up *before* you start. When your space is pretty and perfect, craft your heart out. Then clean up fast by wrapping everything in the throwaway covering—just be sure to save your scissors! ★

Dear *American Girl,*

We're only in fifth grade, but my friend has a "boyfriend." Now she just hangs out with him.

Third Wheel

Your friend isn't being a great friend right now—it's never cool to ignore your pals for some guy. But here are some things to remember: Your friend might be caught up in the newness (and drama?) of having a boyfriend. Also, this guy might be taking more of her time, but it doesn't mean she likes you any less. Don't give up on her. If she doesn't snap out of it, have a heart-to-heart. ★

Illustrations: Laura Cornell

MORE HELP!

Dear *American Girl,*

There's a girl in my class who has been bossing around another kid, who has special needs. I told her to stop, but she gave me a mean look and said that the teacher told her she could tell this kid what to do. It doesn't seem right.

What should I do?

Good call—that *really* doesn't seem right. No matter what your teacher might have said, it's unlikely that's what she meant. Speak to the teacher privately, and ask for advice about how to stand up for this student. You should feel free to make friends with her as well. Because here's what's true: Sometimes it's hard to know how to act around someone who seems really different from you. But when you ignore the way someone *seems* different—whether she has trouble hearing, uses a wheelchair, or has autism—you'll probably find that she's a lot like you. Maybe she's nice, smart, funny, or awesome. And she probably doesn't enjoy being bossed around by other students. Bravo to you for trying to put a stop to it.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

This year, I've noticed that my friends are wearing very short shorts. My family is modest, and when I asked my mom if I could get those shorts, she said no way. Now I feel weird at school.

Wear-do

You can be super stylish without dressing like everyone else. Look for clothes that are cute and comfy and still follow your family's values—there are plenty of options out there if you take time to look around. Work closely with your mom on clothing decisions by looking at magazines or websites together and talking about the styles you see. It's important that you two stay on the same page. You'll both be happier when you love the clothes you wear and they also follow your family's rules.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

I like to buy little things and give them to my friend. I don't want her to give me anything back, but she feels guilty. I tell her not to feel bad, but it doesn't help.

Frustrated

You sound kind and thoughtful—two great qualities in a friend! Since your kindnesses are making your friend feel bad, it might be time for a new plan. Next time you think of your friend while shopping, buy an item you two can use together. That way, you can make a nice gesture and your friend can feel less guilty.

★

even MORE HELP!

Dear *American Girl*,

My sister gets to go to a concert by MY favorite singer. But she does not even LIKE that singer! It is so not fair.

Should I be jealous?

It's easy to see why you're upset, and you're right—so not fair AT ALL. But that's life, you know? Things don't always work out the way we want or even the way they should. That will always be true. Envy makes you feel icky, and there's no point in feeling sorry for yourself or jealous of someone else. So try to let this go, and use your energy for something positive. Be thankful for the things you have now, and know that more good stuff will come your way, too.

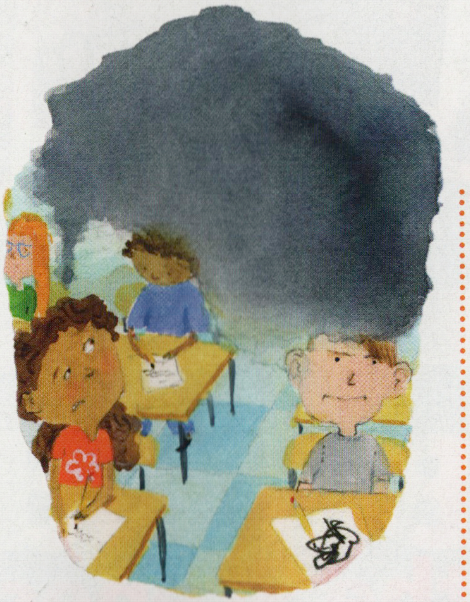
★

Dear *American Girl*,

There's a kid in my class who is always saying super negative and depressing things about life and the world. It makes me feel scared and uncomfortable. How do I block out his words?

Yikes!

It's true that there's some bad stuff out in the world. But *your* world is what needs your focus right now. Think of a phrase to say silently to yourself as a reminder that you're safe in your own world. That can help when you start to feel uneasy. Try: *Blue skies, blue skies.* You also can talk to your teacher or school counselor about this boy—he might need help dealing with his feelings. Ask to sit in a different seat away from him if needed. Good luck.



★

Dear *American Girl*,

The school year is almost over, and my group of five friends has been fighting like crazy! I want it to stop, but I'm afraid my friends will be mad if I bring it up.

Nervous

Sometimes people pick on one another instead of saying what's really on their minds—"I'll miss you" or "I'm worried about next year." That could be happening here. Or maybe your group just needs a break after a long year. Either way, you can bring this up gently: "Come on, guys—let's not wreck the end of school by hating on each other!" Or end a fight with humor: "Still friends here, remember?"

★

Advice from You

"If you're mad at yourself or sad about something, make funny faces in the mirror! That always helps me feel better."

Lindsey F.

Age 12, Washington

Need advice? Got advice? Write:

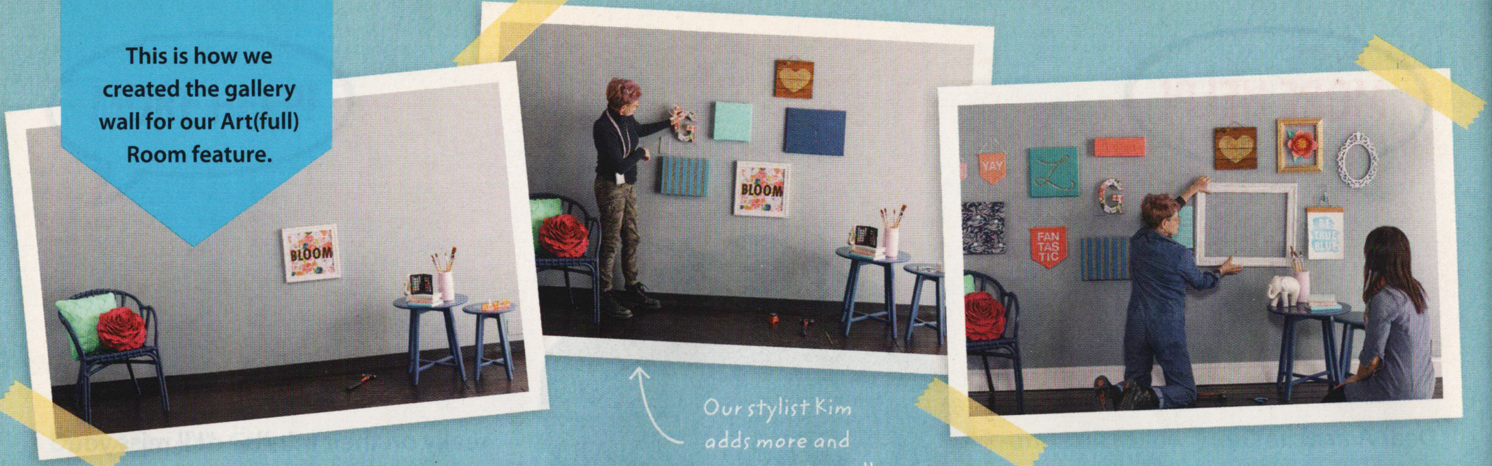
Help!
***American Girl* magazine**
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

We can't respond to all letters. But we read everything you send!

Behind the Scenes

This issue of *American Girl* magazine was full of sun, salt water, and summer crafts!

This is how we created the gallery wall for our Art(full) Room feature.



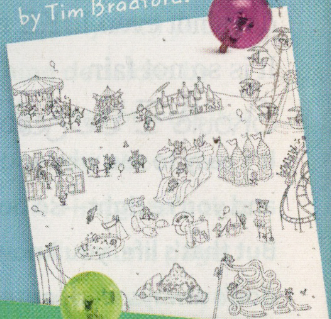
Our stylist Kim adds more and more art to the wall.

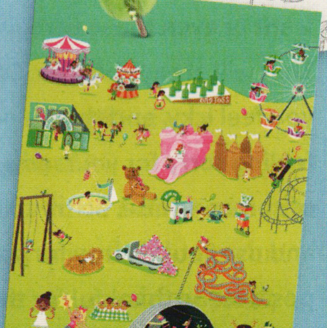
Aubre is the author of *The Secret Sleepover* on page 32. Aubre read *American Girl* magazine as a girl, and now she's writing stories for us!

Aubre, age 7

Now

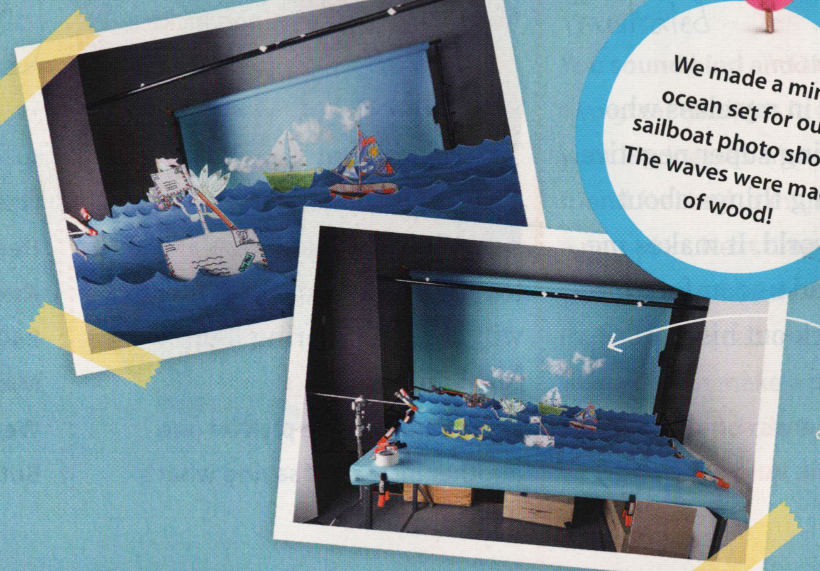
This is the first sketch for our This or That quiz by Tim Bradford.





Here's the final art.

We made a mini ocean set for our sailboat photo shoot. The waves were made of wood!



We used cotton puffs for clouds.

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Illustrations: Carol Yoshizumi

Coming up in the July/August issue of *American Girl* magazine

Sweet Sippers
Learn how to make homemade sodas.

Flower Frenzy
You'll love this garden-themed party.

Get Outside!
Which outdoor activity matches your personality?

Nice Shades
Check out sunglasses designed by girls like you.

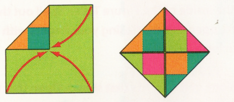
For more fun and games, go to americangirl.com/playmagazine

AG's Future Teller

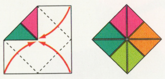
Use these Future Tellers to learn something new about yourself. Each time you play, you'll discover something about your future!

How to fold a Future Teller:

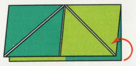
1. Cut out one square. Fold and unfold it in half diagonally in both directions to make an X. Place the square number-side down.
2. Fold each corner point into the center.



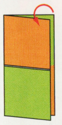
3. Flip so that flaps are facedown. Then fold each corner into the center.



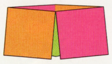
4. Fold in half this way to crease.



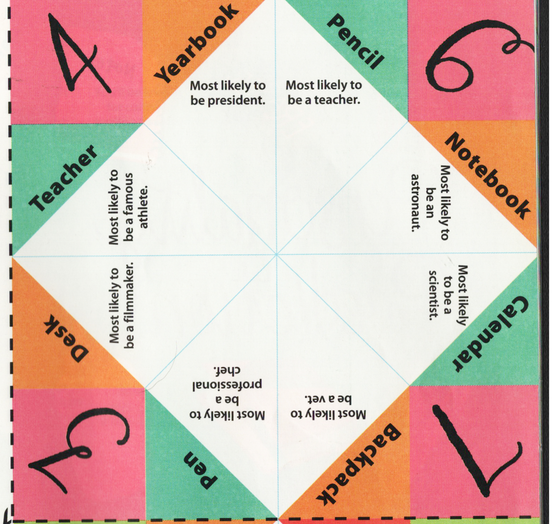
5. Then unfold and fold in half the other way.



6. Stick both thumbs and pointer fingers into the four pockets. Push all the pockets to a point to begin playing.



See other side for how to play!



Most likely to be president.

Most likely to be a teacher.

Most likely to be an astronaut.

Most likely to be a scientist.

Most likely to be a vet.

Most likely to be a professional chef.

Most likely to be a filmmaker.

Most likely to be a famous athlete.

Future Fun!

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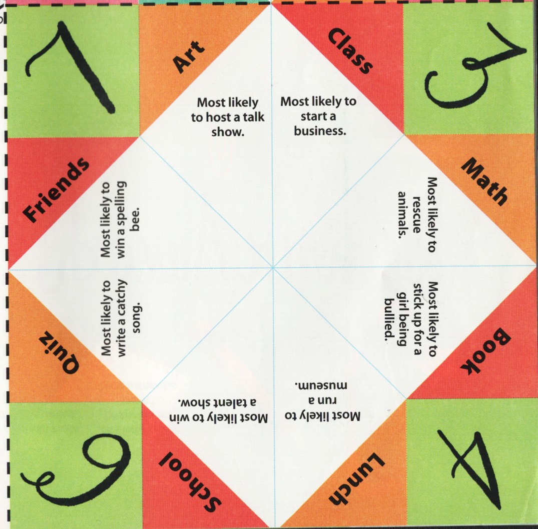

Most likely to host a talk show.

Most likely to start a business.

Most likely to rescue animals.

Most likely to stick up for a girl being bullied.

Most likely to run a museum.

Most likely to win a talent show.

Most likely to write a catchy song.

Most likely to win a spelling bee.

Most likely to...

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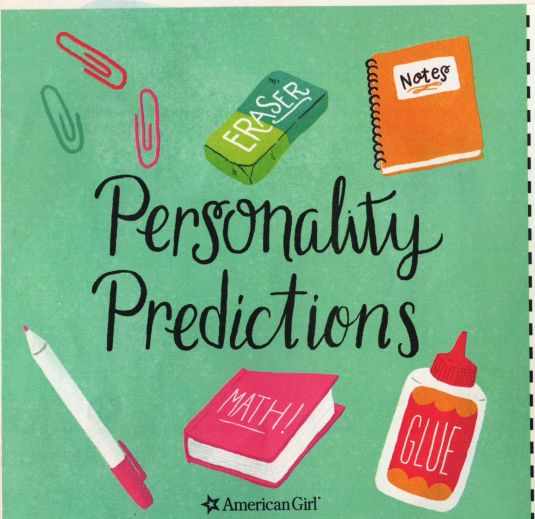

Personality Predictions

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Awesome Awards

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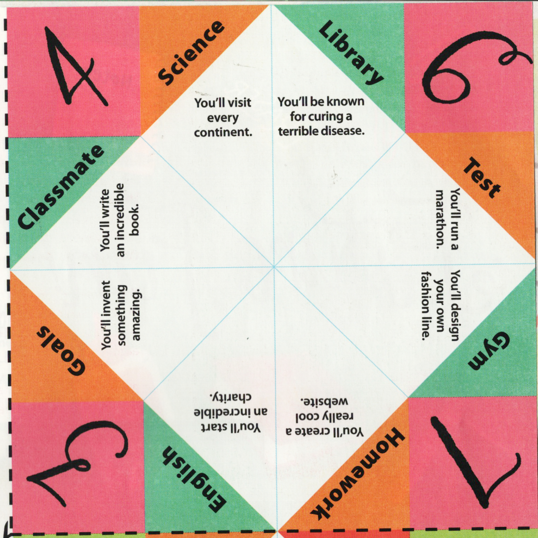
How to Play

1. Insert your pointer fingers and thumbs under the numbered flaps on the Future Teller.
2. Ask a friend to choose a number from one of the outside flaps, or choose one yourself. Open and close your fingers that number of times, moving them front to back and then sideways. (You can play on your own, too.)
3. You or your friend will choose one of the words on the inside of the Future Teller. Spell out the word, opening and closing your fingers with each letter.
4. Pick one of the words that shows. Open that flap and read the message beneath. ★

Illustrations: Emma Trithart



You'll visit every continent.

You'll be known for curing a terrible disease.

You'll run a marathon.

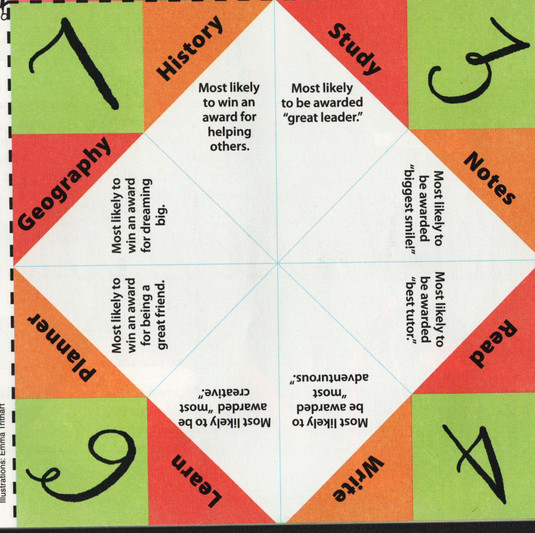
You'll design your own fashion line.

You'll create a really cool website.

You'll start an incredible charity.

You'll invent something amazing.

You'll write an incredible book.



Most likely to win an award for helping others.

Most likely to be awarded "great leader."

Most likely to be awarded "biggest smile!"

Most likely to be awarded "best tutor."

Most likely to be awarded "most adventurous."

Most likely to be awarded "most creative."

Most likely to win an award for being a great friend.

Most likely to win an award for dreaming big.